FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

6 NOVEMBER 1984

Saudi Airliner Hijacked

The passengers and crew of a Saudi Arabian airliner hijacked to Tehran were released after Iranian security forces arrested the hijackers "at an appropriate moment," IRNA announced early on 6 November. The hijackers are assumed to be Yemenis because they had demanded that Saudi Arabia let the Yemeni people be free in their homeland and recall its teachers from Yemen, IRNA noted.

The incident began when the airliner was hijacked on a flight from London to Riyadh and the pilot was forced to fly to Tehran, according to a statement by the Saudi civil aviation authorities broadcast by Riyadh radio. Although the Iranian authorities initially closed their airports to the plane, they allowed it to land after the pilot disclosed that he was running out of fuel, IRNA reported. Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi condemned the hijacking in remarks cited by IRNA.

Lebanon

As a result of diplomatic contacts between Lebanon, the United Nations, and Israel, it has been decided to begin the Lebanese-Israeli military talks on 8 November, a Lebanese Foreign Ministry source disclosed in a statement reported by Beirut radio. IDF radio confirmed the new date for the talks at UNIFIL's headquarters in Al-Naqurah, and Israeli security sources cited by Jerusalem television said the first meeting will focus on procedural matters because the Israelis want to leave the most contentious issues to the final stage of the negotiations.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Jihad organization told a Beirut news agency that the names of those people who participate in the talks with Israel will be added to the Jihad's "blacklist," according to AFP. Two other Muslim groups — Hezbollah and the Islamic Resistance Organization — also condemned the talks with Israel, AFP noted.

However, the Amal movement indicated its support for the negotiations by viewing them as "within the framework of the 1949 armistice agreement," according to a statement reported by Beirut radio. Nabih Birri, the government minister who leads Amal, subsequently confirmed that he and Public Works Minister Walid Junblatt will attend the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 7 November, the radio noted. Birri also stated that neither he nor Junblatt has any objection to the Army deploying along the coastal road to the south "following the Lebanese Forces' withdrawal, to prevent any conflict." However, the Army must not impede the activities of the resistance against the Israeli occupation, he added.

In another development, Beirut radio announced President Amin al-Jumayyil's return to Beirut following his talks with President Chadli Bendjedid in Algiers.

PLO

At the Aden-Algiers agreement signatories' meeting in Algiers, no agreement was reached on convening the PNC there because the PFLP opposed such a meeting, while Algeria insisted that there be unanimous agreement on the issue, Baghdad Voice of PLO reported. Subsequently, the radio added, the Fatah Central Committee decided to send a delegation to Amman "to prepare for convening the PNC there."

GCC

Gulf leaders will meet in Kuwait in 3 weeks to adopt a common defense policy involving a 5-year arms program and a "dissuasion force" for which the amirs are particularly interested in "diversifying" military supply sources, AFP disclosed citing Kuwait's *AL-QABAS*. The paper added that the GCC summit might also make a new bid to end the Iran-Iraq war, AFP noted.

Iraq-Jordan

Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan visited the southern sector of the Iraq-Iran battlefront accompanied by the Iraqi chief of staff, Baghdad radio reported.

Iran

Iranian nuclear experts have finalized plans for the country's first nuclear reactor, which is to be completed next year as the initial step toward Iran's acquisition of nuclear technology, Esfahan radio announced.

Libya

Libyan troops have been withdrawn from northern Chad, according to the clandestine Bardai radio. However, in a telephone interview with Paris radio's international service, Libyan Foreign Liaison Secretary 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki answered affirmatively when asked if all Libyan "elements of support" would be pulled out "between now and mid-November." Questioned further on how Libya would react if the forces under Chadian President Hissein Habre were to attack GUNT forces after the withdrawal, Al-Turayki replied: "We would not stay with our arms crossed, certainly."

As for Libya's position on the Western Sahara, Al-Turayki reaffirmed that Libya supports the 19th OAU summit resolution providing for a referendum on the Sahara.

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'Arafat Receives Japanese Envoy, Message

JN051754 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1620 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of Arab-Japanese Friendship Societies, has received Japanese Prime Minister Nakasone's envoy, who conveyed a message from Prime Minister Nakasone to Brother Abu 'Ammar dealing with the Middle East situation, the Palestinian issue, and developments in the Iraq-Iran war. Brother Abu 'Ammar expressed his thanks to Nakasone for the message.

He said that he hoped Palestinian-Japanese relations and Arab-Japanese relations will develop on the basis of exerting joint international efforts. He said that Japan has an important role to play in this regard in order to achieve the Palestinian people's national rights and a just, permanent solution to the Middle East crisis. He said that the Palestinian issue is the central issue and the crux of the region's crisis. Consequently, international interests will continue to be threatened as long as the Palestinian people continue to be denied their right to return, their right to self-determination, and their right to establish their independent state.

PLO's Qaddumi Confers With Iran's Envoy to Tunisia

LD021358 Tehran IRNA in English 1342 GMT 2 Nov 84

[Text] Algiers, Nov. 2, IRNA — The head of the Political Department of the PLO, Faruq Qaddumi met and conferred with the Islamic Republic of Iran's charge d'affaires in Tunisia Mohammad Efje'i, Thursday. During the meeting, the two sides discussed relations between the Islamic Republic and the PLO and the ways to expand them as well as the latest developments concerning the Palestine issue. Also activities for holding the 17th round of the National Counsultative Assembly of Palestine were discussed.

Further Reportage on PNC Meeting Discussions

No Agreement Reached in Algiers

JN051817 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1620 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] The Aden-Algiers agreement signatories ended their meeting in Algiers yesterday. The signatories are composed of Fatah, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the PFLP, the Palestinian Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Communist Party. The meetings, which were attended by representatives from Algeria and the PDRY, ended with no agreement being reached on convening the PNC in Algiers, because Algeria demanded that there should be what it called unanimous agreement among the signatories to the Aden-Algiers agreement before it allows the PNC to convene on its territory. However, the Aden-Algiers agreement itself stipulated that the PNC be convened no later than 15 September 1984, and this was guaranteed by Algeria and the PDRY.

Our correspondent said that Algeria's demand followed the insistence of the PFLP, which is headed by George Habash, that the PNC should not be convened. This is in response to the Syrian decision aimed at destroying the PLO.

The Fatah delegation left Algiers for Tunis, and presented a report on its discussions in Algiers to the Fatah Central Committee. The Fatah Central Committee decided to form a Palestinian delegation led by Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces. The delegation, which includes Brothers Rafiq al-Natshah and Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid], members of the Fatah Central Committee, will visit Amman to prepare for convening the PNC there, since the Jordanian Government has agreed to host it in Amman.

Hawatimah on Palestinian, PNC Meetings

GF051826 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 4 Nov 84 p 20

[Sattar Jabbar report]

[Excerpts] In a telephone conversation from Algiers with *AL-WATAN*, DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah said that the DFLP has asked Algeria to work for holding an expanded Palestinian meeting at the level of all factions and in the presence of the PNC chairman as the first step towards convening of the PNC. He said that the success in holding this meeting depends on the success of the Algerian brothers.

Hawatimah added that he discussed this question a few days ago with Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and official of the Permanent Secretariat of the Algerian National Liberation Front Party. He said that work will be carried out on the basis of this proposal. The DFLP secretary general said the Democratic Alliance is fully prepared to begin comprehensive dialogue immediately with the various Palestinian forces without imposing any conditions and without a veto from anyone against anyone.

He said that the setting of any conditions beforehand is something like laying mines and exploding them along the way of the national Palestinian unity. He said this step comes in these difficult circumstances in order to crystalize a complete political and organizational document representing a favorable foundation for holding the PNC as soon as possible.

Regarding the invitation made by Yasir 'Arafat and the date and place which he specified for holding the PNC, Nayif Hawatimah said the date and place can be determined after the beginning of the comprehensive dialogue. He said that if certain forces reject the comprehensive dialogue, the date and place for convening the PNC can be determined within the framework of the forces which signed the Algiers-Aden agreement and none of the forces which signed this agreement will have the right to determine separately the date and place. He said the decision on the date and place belongs to the Aden agreement forces. He added: If the comprehensive dialogue between all parties begins and we are striving to begin it, then the date and place will be decided by the forces participating in the comprehensive dialogue.

He added that this matter is one of the major issues now proposed for the agenda of the dialogue held between the Democratic

Alliance and the Fatah Central Committee, which began last Wednesday and is still continuing.

Moreover, Hawatimah pointed out that a meeting of the Democratic Alliance was held recently. He said: The meeting adopted proposals which are now under discussion by the Fatah Central Committee and Algerian and PDRY officials for the purpose of holding the PNC as soon as possible and for reviving other legitimate Palestinian institutions of the PLO so that we can put an end to the state of paralysis and deterioration in the PLO affairs. The PLO can shoulder its Palestinian, Arab, and international responsibility, especially since we are noting with bitter pain that our national cause is now occupying only a marginal space in international events. We have to take matters into our own hands again so that we can protect the PLO existence — this existence which has become a national Palestinian issue in the first place.

Nayif Hawatimah stressed that the joint leadership of the PFLP and DFLP are right and that this leadership has played and is still playing a role of unity against all the defeatist, upheaving, and adventurous drives. He said the Palestinian people will welcome the role of this leadership, which will continue within the framework of our work in the Democratic Alliance and within the framework of the developing relations between the PFLP and DFLP.

He added: We can say that we have reached a comprehensive agreement on all the issues which concern our people and revolution. This was reached during the negotiations which were held by the parties of the Democratic Alliance with the contribution of Brother Chairman 'Ali Nasir in Aden last week.

Fatah Reportedly Decides on Amman

JN060853 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Nov 84 pp 1,3

[By Lamis K. Andoni in Tunis]

[Text] The Central Committee of Fatah, the mainstream commando movement within the PLO, has apparently reached a decision to convene the much delayed 17th session of the PNC in Amman before the end of November despite objections by the "Democratic Alliance" which groups four other PLO factions.

As a first step to implement the decision, the Fatah leadership is also sending a delegation to Amman to consult with Jordanian leaders and prepare for the planned PNC session, according to informed sources here. The sources said the delegation will include Fatah Central Committee members Hani al-Hassan, Hayil 'Abd Hamid and Rafiq al-Natshah. Two members of the Fatah Central Committee, Khalid al-Hassan and Mahmud 'Abbas, arrived in Amman Monday and it was not clear whether their visit to Jordan was related to the decision to convene the PNC in the Jordanian capital.

The second step in the Fatah strategy was to rally support for the decision among PNC members, the sources said. An appeal circulated among PNC members in Tunis Monday, sought their signatures endorsing support for a prompt convening of the council but did not specify the venue.

The Fatah decision, which was taken Sunday night in meetings in Tunis and not disclosed as of Monday night, was reached by the Fatah leadership after the failure of Algerian efforts to convince Syrian-backed PLO factions to enter a direct dialogue with Fatah and a suggestion by the "Democratic Alliance" that the PNC session be postponed.

The Syrian-backed factions, grouped in a "National Alliance," have been insisting that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat step down before the PNC is called to session. The decision by Fatah, Mr 'Arafat's power base in the PLO, came after reluctance by the "Democratic Alliance" to support an earlier decision by the mainstream commando movement to convene the PNC before end of November where it was held. [as published] The "Democratic Alliance" reluctance, coupled with a clear, but indirect, Algerian indication that the North African Arab nation was willing to host the PNC session only if it was attended by all PLO factions prompted the Fatah leadership to decide on Amman as the PNC venue, according to sources.

Algeria, which has been seeking to reconcile the feuding PLO factions, has said that it was not setting terms for hosting the PNC, but wanted to avoid fuurther rifts in the PLO, which it believed would result if a PNC session was held without the participation of all PLO factions.

A senior Fatah leader indicated Monday that the Fatah- "Democratic Alliance" dialogue over the issue has reached a deadlock despite a statement by Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), one of the four factions in the alliance, that the talks were postponed to resume on Oct 15. [as published]

Khalil al-Wazir, member of the Fatah Central Committee and deputy military commander of the PLO, told the *JORDAN TIMES* Monday that Fatah was not committed to any specific date to resume the dialogue with the "Democratic Alliance." "The Democratic Alliance suggested the meeting (on Oct 15) but we told them it was up to the Central Committee to decide on it," Mr al-Wazir said. However, the *JORDAN TIMES* has learnt that Fatah has rejected the suggestion and considered it "another attempt to drag indefinitely the issue of setting a date for convening the PNC."

The "Democratic Alliance," which groups the DFLP, the PFLP, the Palestine Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Communist Party, has suggested reactivating other institutions of the PLO including the PLO Executive Committee and the PLO Central Committee pending the agreement on the date and the venue of the planned PNC session. Fatah, however, has refused the suggestion, describing it as a "manoeuvre to escape from setting a final date for the PNC session." The "Democratic Alliance" defends its position by saying that it seeks to maintain the unity of the PLO.

However, indications are that the alliance has not reached a consensus on the issue. The DFLP, PLF and PCP agree with Fatah on the urgency of convening the PNC as soon as possible, but they reject any venue other than Algeria or South Yemen. The PFLP maintains a stand that it will not attend any PNC session unless all PLO factions participate in it and says that convening the PNC meeting without the participation of all factions will enhance divisions within the PLO.

Muhammad Malluh, member of the PFLP's Political Bureau, says his organisation is convinced that holding a PNC session without the participation of all factions will only undermine the PLO's unity and widen the existing rifts. Also, according to Mr Malluh, such a PNC meeting will open the way for the formation of an alternate organisation to rival the PLO. Fatah, however, is apparently undisturbed by the possibility of Syria and the "National Alliance" forming another PLO. "Such an organisation will have no weight," a Fatah Central Committee member told the *JORDAN TIMES*. "It will only be its master's voice that represents nobody but Syria," he added.

Fedayeens Attack Israeli Settlement, Vehicle

JN051727 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1620 GMT
5 Nov 84

[Text] Our heroic revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland are intensifying their military operations against the Zionist occupation forces in accordance with the revolution command's instructions and decision to escalate armed struggle inside the occupied homeland. Our heroic revolutionaries have attacked Yardena settlement near Bet She'an with Katyusha rockets. A large number of Zionists were either killed or wounded, and the settlement sustained severe material damage.

Our revolutionaries also attacked a Zionist vehicle carrying a number of Zionist terrorists yesterday, as it passed near Ramallah in the occupied West Bank. A number of the terrorists were either killed or wounded in the hand grenade attack. A Zionist military spokesman admitted the two operations, but did not mention his losses. He said that his forces combed the area, carried out an extensive search, and arrested a large number of Palestinian citizens on the pretext of assisting in the operations.

Resistance Operations in South Lebanon Reported

JN051902 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1620 GMT
5 Nov 84

[Text] The Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance are escalating their operations against the Zionist invasion force's men and equipment as well as the militias of the so-called army of southern Lebanon, inflicting further losses in life and equipment on them. A resistance group set off a highly explosive charge yesterday under a Zionist military patrol near Shabriha, northeast of Tyre in occupied southern Lebanon. A large Zionist military vehicle was destroyed, and all of its occupants were either killed or wounded.

Another resistance group attacked a Zionist military patrol yesterday morning as it passed near Ma'ruf Sa'd in Sidon. A Zionist jeep was completely destroyed, and all of its occupants were either killed or wounded in the machine gun and rocket attack. Another resistance group attacked a military patrol yesterday morning belonging to the militias of the so-called army of southern Lebanon when it passed near Sidon. One jeep was destroyed and another was damaged. All of the occupants were either killed or wounded. Another resistance group attacked a military position belonging to the agent militias in Sabra, in occupied southern Lebanon, yesterday. A large number of the position's agent personnel were either killed or wounded in the attack. Another resistance group launched a machine gun and rocket attack yesterday against a military patrol belonging to the agent militias when it passed near Sabra in the occupied south. An agent military vehicle was completely destroyed, and all of its occupants were either killed or wounded.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted the operations, but did not mention his losses. He said, as usual, that his forces and the agent militias immediately carried out extensive searches and arrested a large number of Lebanese and Palestinian citizens on the pretext of collaborating with the resistance men, who withdrew safely to base.

GULF AFFAIRS

AFP: GCC Seeks To Create 'Dissuasion Force'

NC051429 Paris AFP in English 1418 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 5 (AFP) — Gulf leaders will meet here in three weeks' time to adopt a common defence policy involving a five-year armament program and the creation of a "dissuasion force," it was reported today. The Kuwaiti daily *AL-QABAS* said the summit of the GCC also planned to allocate 60 million dollars a year to boost anti-aircraft defences of its six members: Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait. The amirs were particularly interested in diversifying their sources of military supplies, the paper said.

AL-QABAS said King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Amir Jabir al-Ahmad of Kuwait would have private talks on a proposed joint security treaty between GCC members over which Kuwait has expressed some reservations. Ratification of the treaty was postponed by the GCC's last two summits in Bahrain (1982) and Qatar last year after Kuwait objected to provisions for the cross-border pursuit of "saboteurs" into neighboring countries. Spurred by the Iran-Iraq conflict, Saudi Arabia has concluded security pacts with all other GCC members and with Iraq since 1981.

AL-QABAS said the summit might also embark on a new bid to end the war between Tehran and Baghdad. The GCC plan would seek to install a temporary cease-fire on all fronts as a first step to peace talks, it said.

New Broadcasting Service To Cover GCC Summit

GF051524 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1340 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Nov (WAKH) — As part of Kuwaiti preparations to host the fifth GCC summit conference, a special broadcasting service known as the "Gulf Summit Conference Broadcasting Service" [Idha'at Mu'tamar al-Qimmah al-Khaliji] will start transmission 15 November and end on 30 November.

'Abd al-'Aziz al-Mansur, director of the Kuwait Broadcasting Service, has told WAKH that this broadcasting service will be a precursor of Gulf cooperation in the field of information to enlighten public opinion regarding developments in the region and the achievements of its inhabitants.

Regarding the transmission of the broadcasting service, 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Mansur said it will begin at 0600 and last until 0100. He said the programs will include news, intellectual and literary programs and political and economic subjects dealing with the aspirations of the peoples of the area for unity. Announcers, directors, producers, and writers from the broadcasting services of the GCC states will participate in preparing the programs of the new broadcasting service. WAKH will also supply the broadcasting service with news and reports on the GCC countries.

The Gulf Broadcasting Service will also carry the transmission of this broadcasting service as part of their general programs. The special service will transmit on a mediumwave of 1134 [kiloHertz].

BAHRAIN

Amir Receives Message From Saudi King

GF051044 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Manama, 5 Nov (WAKH) — The Amir of Bahrain His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah has received a message from King of Saudi Arabia His Majesty Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. WAKH has learned that the message pertains to bilateral relations and the preparations for the convocation of the fifth GCC summit conference which will be held in Kuwait on 27 November.

The message was conveyed by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal during an audience with his highness the amir. Present were Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah and Saudi Ambassador to Bahrain Dr Ghazi 'Abd al-Rahman al-Qusaybi.

Briefs

Ambassadors Present Credentials — Manama, 3 Nov (WAKH) — Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, today received the credentials of new Saudi Ambassador to Bahrain Ghazi al-Qusaybi and the new French Ambassador Pierre Costinar. Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah also received the credentials of the new Irish Ambassador to Bahrain Sean O'Higgin. [Text] [*Manama WAKH in Arabic 0650 GMT 3 Nov 84 GF*]

Taiwan Official Visits — Manama, 3 Nov (WAKH) — Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister of Bahrain, has received a letter from the prime minister of the Republic of China dealing with bilateral relations and methods of strengthening them in all fields. The letter was delivered by Jin Ching, deputy minister of education of the Republic of China upon his reception by Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah today. [Text] [*Manama WAKH in Arabic 1150 GMT 3 Nov 84 GF*]

KUWAIT

Oil Minister Discusses GCC, OPEC Issues

GF051655 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Nov (WAKH) — Oil and Finance Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Adhbi was quoted here Monday as stating that Kuwait's gas exploration plans had mostly ended in the discovery of crude oil and assured that reduction in the country's production quota will not affect domestic gas supplies.

In an interview with *AL-QABAS* newspaper, Shaykh 'Ali said that Kuwait's consent at Geneva to cut down its crude output by an average of 150,000 b/d will not adversely affect domestic gas supplies used to operate water desalination plants and power stations.

Commenting on the recent meeting held by oil ministers in the six countries of the GCC in Geneva, Shaykh 'Ali denied that the issue, taken up by the officials, of connecting these states with a network of oil and gas pipelines has anything to do with the shortage of gas supplies which Kuwait is reportedly suffering from. He added that the projects are of long-term strategy and absolutely not linked to Kuwait in particular. In a separate statement, Shaykh 'Ali expressed confidence that the recent OPEC accord will stand the prevailing conditions in the world oil market.

He told *AL-WATAN* newspaper today in case OPEC's decision did not give the aspired results or some OPEC members failed to abide, we will take new decisions and reconsider our recent agreement to reduce production, he emphasized. Asked to comment on the recent reduction in gas prices announced by four American companies, the minister said they were insignificant because they were based on prices of light crude and because the reduced prices are not obliging to others.

Briefs

Envoy to Japan — Tokyo, Nov 3 (KUNA) — The new Kuwaiti ambassador to Japan, 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Harun, arrived here Saturday to take up his post, the Kuwaiti Embassy announced. Al-Harun, the fifth Kuwaiti ambassador to Japan, succeeds Ahmad Ghayth who returned to Kuwait last month. [Text] [*Kuwait KUNA in English 1428 GMT 3 Nov 84 LD*]

OMAN

Jordan's Prince Hasan Arrives in Muscat 3 Nov

JN040658 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Nov 84

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and his accompanying delegation arrived in Muscat from New Delhi last night. He was received by Tuwayni ibn Shihab al-Sa'id, representative of His Majesty Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id and senior Omani officials.

QATAR

YAR Prime Minister Departs 5 Nov

GF051339 Doha QNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Doha, 5 Nov (QNA) — YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani and his accompanying delegation today left Doha for home after concluding a 2-day visit to Qatar. During the visit he held talks with Qatari officials on the means of cementing bilateral relations, the Arab situation, and issues of common interest.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Comoros

GF041658 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Doha, 5 Nov (WAKH) — Qatar and the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros have decided to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level, it was announced here today. The decision reflects a mutual desire on the part of the two countries to promote ties of friendship and cooperation.

Briefs

Envoys Present Credentials — Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs, today received the credentials of 'Isa ibn Ahmad ibn 'Ali, Omani ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Qatar; Mohamed Mahmud Garad, Somali ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Qatar; and (Yosa Hakano), Japanese ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Qatar. [Summary] [*Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 Nov 84 GF*]

SAUDI ARABIA

Statement Issued on Plane Hijacked to Tehran

GF060442 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0408 GMT 6 Nov 84

["Text" of statement issued by the Directorate of Civil Aviation in the Kingdom of the Saudi Arabia — date not given]

[Text] The pilot of a Tristar aircraft of the airlines of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Flight No 040, en route from London to Riyadh via Jeddah reported that as the aircraft approached Riyadh's airspace at 0040 on Tuesday morning, 6 November 1984 [2140 GMT on 5 November], the plane was hijacked. He added that he was being forced to head for Tehran.

The plane had landed earlier at the Jeddah airport where some of the passengers had embarked and disembarked, making the total passengers on board 113 people of various nationalities in addition to a crew of 14. The plane touched down at Tehran airport at 0235 today [2335 GMT on 5 November].

The Saudi authorities will undertake all the necessary measures in order to ensure the safety of the passengers and the plane. A statement will be issued later to provide the full details.

PDRY

President Nasir Muhammad To Visit GDR 8 Nov

LD051948 Kuwait KUNA in English 1651 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Aden, Nov 5 (KUNA) — President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad of South Yemen will make an official four-day visit to the GDR starting November 8. President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, who is also prime minister and leader of the ruling Socialist Party, was invited by GDR President Erich Honecker.

Briefs

USSR Friendship Delegation Arrives — A delegation representing the USSR-PDRY Friendship Association arrived in Aden today to take part in the celebrations of Soviet-Yemeni friendship week which opens on 4 November. The visit of the delegation falls within the context of the protocol signed between the friendship associations of the two friendly countries. [Summary] [*Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Nov 84 GF*]

Briefs

Envoy to GDR — 'Abd al-Wasim al-Shururi delivered his credentials to GDR State Council Chairman Erich Honecker yesterday as PDRY ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the GDR. [Summary] [*Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Nov 84 GF*]

YAR

Coup Attempt, Threat on President Denied

GF051343 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 4 Nov 84 p 1

[Text] In a telephone contact with *AL-QABAS*, a high-ranking Yemeni information official has denied that there has been any attempt on the life of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih through an abortive coup d'etat. He said these allegations are devoid of truth and are aimed at sabotaging our foreign policy, which is characterized by positive nonalignment. The situation is completely stable in Yemen.

Foreign Minister Receives Soviet Ambassador

GF060626 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, foreign minister and secretary of the Standing Committee, received today Anatoliy Filev, Soviet ambassador in Sanaa. During the meeting bilateral relations and the means to develop them were discussed.

Prime Minister Returns to Sanaa 5 Nov

GF051425 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1310 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Sanaa, 5 Nov (WAKH) — YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani returned to Sanaa from Doha today after a 2-day visit to the state of Qatar. During the visit 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani conveyed a message from YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani dealing with relations between the two countries and the latest developments in the Arab arena. He also held talks with Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and minister of defense, on bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern.

Mubarak Congratulates Chernenko on Anniversary

JN061301 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 6 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent a cable of congratulations to Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, on the anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution. The following is the text of the cable:

On the occasion of your celebrations of the October Revolution anniversary, it gives me pleasure to convey to Your Excellency and to the friendly USSR peoples sincere and heartfelt congratulations. While we look forward to strengthening the relations which exist between our two friendly peoples and developing them in their mutual interest. We wish Your Excellency health and happiness and your friendly peoples more progress and development.

With my appreciation and best regards.

Saudi Prince Talal Departs After 4-Day Visit

JN051409 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Prince Talal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, president of the Arab Gulf program to bolster UN development organizations and UNICEF's special envoy, left Cairo this afternoon following a 4-day visit to Egypt. During the visit he attended an international pediatrics conference which started 2 days ago.

Defense Minister on New War Products

JN051555 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, has said that 11 new Egyptian war products will be exhibited, including a new air defense weapon which combines an antiaircraft gun and a missile. He added that the Egyptian-made 'Ayn al-Saqr [hawkeye] missile will be exhibited. Production of this missile will begin in March 1985.

Abu Ghazalah announced this during his tour of the Egyptan section at the Cairo exhibition of defense equipment. He added that some Eastern equipment — Eastern tanks, MiG-21's, and Chinese F-7 planes — has been developed to world level. The 130mm gun currently being produced in war factories has also been developed. This gun's range has been increased from 27 to 29 km.

The defense minister said that Egyptian war factories are producing many types of ammunition. He said that the Sky Guard missile has been developed and amended by 50 percent, and that its name has been changed to Amun, according to a joint Egyptian-Italian system. He added that the Council of Ministers has decided to manufacture an Egyptian tank, and that $216 million has been allocated for the production of the tank and an armored tracked vehicle.

Economy, Trade Minister Says Economy Sound

JN052008 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA) — Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id, minister of economy and foreign trade, has affirmed that the Egyptian economy is currently functioning in a sound fashion, whether in the monetary and credit policy or in the foreign exchange prices policy.

The minister of economy affirmed at a news conference today that there is not a self-absorption policy in the Egyptian economy, but a policy of reform and control of the exchange system. He said that the situation in the exchange system has currently stabilized, now that the stage of tight control has passed. He said that the banks can now expand in the credit field, which reconfirms that the Egytpian economy is functioning correctly and in accordance with the plan to achieve complete stability.

Minister Welcomes Investors in Resources Field

JN051357 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral wealth, has expressed Egypt's readiness to encourage and provide all facilities and guarantees to foreign and Egyptian investors from the public, private, and mixed sectors for the benefit of both sides in exploring and exploiting minerals in Egypt.

He announced this during the international conference for evaluating natural resources, petroleum, and subterranean water which was held at Nasr this morning. The conference was organized by the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Wealth in cooperation with the U.S. AID organization. The conference was attended by more than 250 experts and scientists who specialize in the field of investment, mineral wealth, and the exploration and evaluation of natural ores necessary for industrial development in Egypt.

The petroleum and mineral wealth minister said that all investment issues are negotiable with complete flexibility by Egypt. He said that the cost of power to be used in the mining process can be negotiated in a manner that would benefit the project. The minister said that he would welcome the geological survey board providing investors with the relevant natural ores data free of charge.

The conference will last for 2 days during which it will discuss nearly 30 reports on mineral wealth exploitation in Egypt.

Briefs

New Brunei Ambassador — Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, received Al-Haj Ahmad Murad Sa'id, the new ambassador of the Sultanate of Brunei in Cairo today. Their discussion dealt with ways to bolster their two nations' friendly relations. [Text][*Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 3 Nov 84 NC*]

Jordanian Crown Prince Visits War Front

JN051954 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan ibn Talal, accompanied by the chief of staff and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad, visited the southern sector of the battlefront with the Iranian enemy. Upon arriving at the Al-Qadisiyah forces' command, the crown prince was welcomed by the III Army Corps commander, who gave him a detailed briefing on the Corps' formations and sectors and on our valiant units' preparations to confront the enemy and repulse its criminal attempts.

The Jordanian crown prince toured the forward units accompanied by the chief of staff and the III Army Corps commander. He became acquainted with their strong fortifications, the high morale that leader Saddam Husayn's soldiers enjoy, and these soldiers' full comprehension of combat activities and employment of modern and sophisticated military equipment.

His Highness Prince Hasan expressed his admiration for our Armed Forces' hight combat morale. He also expressed pride in these forces' heroic deeds in repulsing the Iranian regime's aggression against the eastern flank of the Arab homeland.

Communique No 1,641 on 4-5 Nov Actions

JN051713 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Communique No 1,641 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 5 November 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces are continuing their activities in the operational sectors agaisnt the forces of the suspect and spiteful Iranian enemy. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Using artillery and other weapons, our forward units pounded the enemy positions, troop concentrations, and vehicles in the operational sector east of Basra, killing four, wounding others, and destroying one large vehicle.

2. One of our forward units fired on an enemy observation post and a hardware stockpile in the Maysan sector, completely destroying them. Columns of smoke were seen billowing from the attacked targets.

3. A group of enemy troops tried to approach the positions of one of our forward units in the central sector of the operational theater. It was pounded with all types of weapons and sustained a number of dead and wounded. The others took to their heels. Elsewhere in the same sector, one of our forward units destroyed one 81-mm mortar.

4. Fleeing the injustice of the oppressive Iranian clique, an Iranian family and fresh groups of Iranian civilians sought refuge with our forward units in the northern sector of the battlefield. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 November 1984

UN Committee To Investigate Iranian Crimes

JN061134 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 6 Nov 84

[Text] Vienna, 6 Nov (INA) — It was learned here today that the committee formed by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar recently to investigate the crimes committed by the Iranian regime when it executed Iraqi prisoners, will meet in Vienna following the completion of a final report on this issue.

An Austrian Foreign Ministry source told INA here today that to begin with, three of the committee's members will meet with representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva and will then leave for Iran and Iraq.

Iraq had sent a letter to the UN secretary general on 25 October requesting that he take the necessary measures with respect to the execution by Iran of several Iraqi prisoners in a Gorkan camp on 10 October in the presence of Red Cross representatives who were there on a routine visit.

Taha Yasin Ramadan Receives Cuba's Levi Farah

JN051653 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received Levi Farah, Cuban minister of construction [title as heard] today . The two sides reviewed Iraqi-Cuban relations and ways of bolstering them in the interest of the two friendly peoples. The Cuban ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Lithuanian Officials Begin Talks 5 November

JN051556 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1422 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA) — 'Abd al-Fattah Muhammad Amin, secretary of the Union of Iraqi Societies of Friendship With Peoples, met here today with Rusenko, first [as received] deputy chairman of the Lithuanian SSR Council of Ministers.

Amin expressed Iraq's pride in the development of bilateral relations in all fields. He reviewed Iraq's peace initiatives and its response to all international efforts to peacefully end the Iraq-Iran war. He pointed out the Iranian regime's intentions against Iraq, and that regime's attempts to interfere in its internal affairs and obstruct its development plans.

Rusenko stressed that the Soviet Government is working for an end to the Iraq-Iran war, and regretted Iran's insistence on continuing the war. It is noteworthy that Rusenko, who arrived here last night, is heading an artistic and cultural delegation that will participate in the Iraqi-Soviet friendship days scheduled to begin tomorrow.

British Delegation Arrives in Baghdad 5 Nov

JN051258 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA) — British Secretary of State for Trade and Industry Paul Channon arrived here today at the head of a delegation on a 4-day visit to Iraq. Channon will head his country's delegation to the meetings of the Joint Iraqi-British Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation to begin here at a later date.

Channon will also participate in the 21st Baghdad International Fair which began last Thursday.

Economic Talks Begin

JN051750 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Meetings of the third session of the Joint Iraqi-British Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation began at the Trade Ministry today. RCC member and Minister of Trade Hasan 'Ali chaired the Iraqi side, and Secretary of State for Trade and Industry Paul Channon chaired the British side.

At the beginning of the meeting Hasan 'Ali reviewed the strong economic and trade conditions in Iraq despite the war circumstances. He indicated the stability being enjoyed by the local market and the development of Iraq's trade relations wtih various countries in the world.

At the end of the meeting, the two sides decided to form three subcommittees: The financial subcommittee, the trade and economic cooperation subcommittee, and the technical cooperation subcommittee.

Trade Minister Receives SFRY Official

JN051656 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister, received Jon Srbovan, Yugoslav federal secretary of state and member of the Federal Executive Council, and his delegation. The two sides reviewed the progress of bilateral relations in the economic andtechnical fields in the service of the two friendly peoples.

Dr Qubays Sa'id 'Abd al-Fattah, Trade Ministry under secretary for foreign affairs; the director general of the department of economic relations with the socialist countries at the ministry; and the two countries' ambassadors attended the two meetings.

Ramadan Receives U.S. Businessmen's Group

JN021412 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 2 Nov 84

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received here today the U.S. businessmen's delegation now visiting Iraq on the occasion of opening the 21st Baghdad International Fair. They discussed cooperation in agriculture, irrigation, and industry between Iraqi institutions and the companies which are represented by the delegation. The official in charge of U.S. interests in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Transport Minister Returns From Algeria

JN041047 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 Nov 84

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Nov (INA) — Transport and Communications Minister 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Abd al-Rahim and his delegation have returned to Baghdad from Algiers following a 5-day visit, during which they attended Algeria's 30th revolution anniversary celebrations.

Iraq Denies Seeking Security Assistance

JN061056 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 6 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA) — A responsible source at the Iraqi Interests Section in Cairo has denied a report published in the recent issue of *AL-WAFD* that the Iraqi Government has asked Egypt, Jordan, and the YAR to provide it with security forces in order to reinforce internal security in Iraq because the Iraqi security forces are busy with the war against Iran.

The source added that Iraq is strong and capable of deterring any Iranian regime's aggression, and that the Iraqi people and army are capable of acheiving security and stability inside and outside Iraq. The source stressed that Iraq's doors are open for press delegations to reassure themselves on this fact.

King Husayn Grants Interview to Kuwaiti Paper

GF311500 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 30 Oct 84 pp 8-10

[Interview with King Husayn by Faysal Yusuf al-Marzuq, chief editor of *AL-ANBA'*; Muhammad Jasim al-Saqr, chief editor of *AL-QABAS*; and Hamad Jasim al-Sa'id, chief editor of *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM*, in Amman — no date given]

[Text] Question: For Arabs in general, the date on which diplomatic relations were restored with Cairo and the strange events which accompanied this step provoked interest for the simple reason that you, Your Majesty, paid a private visit to Britain on 24 September, and returned to Amman on the 25th to announce the restoration of relations. This was a surprise even to the political leadership close to Your Majesty in Jordan. In addition, the Jordanian Cabinet used to meet every Sunday and Wednesday, but you, on Tuesday, ordered the prime minister to summon the Cabinet meeting. Has the recent period made Your Majesty the first pessimist regarding the convening of the Arab summit which was scheduled to be held on November? [the king asks: Is it last November or ....?] If you still believe in Arab solidarity — and you are one of the political leaders who are striving to achieve Arab solidarity — then you could have proposed this idea for the agenda of the Arab summit. We also note that on this same basis and at the same time and same circumstances you, Your Majesty, are stressing openly the necessity of adopting the resolutions of the Arab League on the basis of majority vote and not by unanimity. Is it possible to explain this coincidence?

Answer: All right, step by step. In fact, the restoration of relations with Egypt was decided before the date on which these relations were restored. Jordanian officials were aware of this. Before my departure it was agreed to decide what to do after my return. As for the reason, this matter was discussed at the last Fes summit in Morocco. One of the brother Arab presidents said that he has information indicating that some Arab countries have contacts with Egypt. I answered him immediately that if he meant Jordan, I would like to say openly that our contacts with Egypt began in this new era and are continuing, and that we will be happier when our relations are normalized.

The other part is the question of resolutions. Many of the bad things which happen in our Arab world are due to the fact that we handle matters without enough study. In reality, the Baghdad summit did not decide to sever the relations of Arab countries with Egypt, but at the foreign ministers' meeting a few months later there was hesitation regarding the resolution on severing relations. Consequently, some countries severed their relations and others practiced their right to sovereignty. Every country has the right to decide what it wants. We severed our relations at that time and we severed them for clear reasons. This country was the first to stand against the march of Camp David with its various details, in face of pressures that could not be ignored. Ours was the first country to respond to the Baghdad summit invitation made by Iraq. Now, things have changed. When we severed relations we did not imagine that this situation would continue forever. On the contrary, we severed relations with pain. For certain circumstances, our enemy and rivals succeeded in dragging Egypt away from the Arabs and the Arabs away from Egypt. All Arabs admit this.

No one can cast doubt on the history of Egypt, the struggle of Egypt, the sacrifices of Egypt and the position of Egypt in the Arab march. The present leadership came with a new beginning and took a step toward the Arab nation. It was assumed that we would reciprocate in the same and even in a better manner, so that we could prevent our enemies from achieving further gains at our expense and so that we could live in harmony as one nation that has a common march and that shares one goal and one objective.

Dialogue and contacts are continuing in every field. Egypt's positions, on the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the sufferings of the PLO in Lebanon, the Iran-Iraq war and toward the Palestinian issue, are known. It is true that Egypt recovered some parts of its lands and, God willing, it will be able to recover all its lands, but it stopped at this limit because the way in which the Camp David accords were formulated and the situation in Egypt at that time were among the reasons which made us adopt the position which we adopted in a previous stage. [sentence as published] But this manner cannot lead to any result. Our political positions toward the Palestinian issue are identical. We tried to discuss this matter at the Arab summits, but where are these Arab summits?

We found that it is the time to take a special initiative to counter the paralysis in the Arab world, and we cannot do more than this. In addition, Jordan in itself is Palestine. We are one faction, have one goal and aim and are united in resistance. These are our neighbors and brothers and have influence in this world.

In reality we saw that the time has come to take this step. Some think that we took this step at a time when people from various parts of the world were visiting the region and Jordan. We did not want it to have any connection with these visits because in reality there is no foreign side that is connected with the issue or knew about it. We made our decision with God's blessing and will. What immensely comforted and pleased us was the reaction of the people in Jordan and Egypt and, I believe, people in many parts of the Arab world.

As for the question of unanimity, this is a dilemna and I do not know how we are going to get out of it.

In fact even the Arab League Charter does not say that a decision should be taken unanimously, but the mistakes and negative aspects are many. First of all why is the subject of the Arab summit being discussed? We did not violate the decision of the summit. Second, the matter was a question of recommendation from the foreign ministers, and at that time a number of Arab countries did not accept it.

In this circumstance there were differences and changes, and thank God for what happened. We are ready to discuss this issue at any summit. If we are going to discuss the subject of the Arab summit, it is necessary to look into the real violations regarding its failure to meet or the nonfulfillment of its obligations. More dangerous than this is that we must look into the Arab League Charter and its violations, the joint defense treaty, the stand of one Arab against the other with arms and the support and arms that are falling into the hands of those who are fighting us and carrying Israeli arms. This also cannot be denied by anyone. All these issues are forgotten and abandoned.

Moreover, why don't the Arab leaders convene? Because, brother, they are scared that they will have differences and there will be more problems. Why would they meet if there are no problems, challenges, or threats and there are no reasons for a meeting? To tell the truth, I do not have any idea today if the meeting was supposed to take place last year or this year or if it is going to take place. Even if the step we took with total conviction was the cause for a summit meeting, we would have said it is a good and blessed tiding and would with no objection have assembled the people for this purpose. But to tell the truth, our situation is painful and whatever we are feeling is felt by every Arab. Matters have reached a stage where we cannot remain paralyzed, facing our enemies and challenges.

This is the reason for our decision, which perhaps came a little later than we should have adopted it. However, we took it when we felt we had to.

Question: Your Majesty, as for the restoration of relations with Egypt, Jordan says that this move is designed to restore Arab cohesion and lead to Arab solidarity, if possible. Egypt says we have mutually agreed on a strategy for peace. Which is more correct?

Answer: I hear many of my brothers saying that Jordan always talks about peace. Is it possible or impossible? Regardless of this, we continue to talk about a just and honorable peace whose dimensions are known to us and to the world — and which we have been addressing since 1967. It is known to Israel that we cannot negotiate on an inch of the occupied territories, on one of the stones of Jerusalem or even on an iota of the rights of the Palestinian people to their soil and territories. The equation is present in UN Security Council Resolution 242, the principle of which is security for peace. The talk about the accessibility of the occupation of the territories, all the territories, in return for peace ... [sentence incomplete] Is this possible or impossible? I do not know. My suspicions increase considerably. The story began in 1967.

The opportunity was not good at that time no more than any other time. The past three elections in Israel demonstrated their effect and the effect of the Zionist movement on the United States. The financial, moral, and military support which it acquires (i.e. Israel) is a fact that does not allow us to relax. But when we say that there is no peace, this means that we have to fight the next day or to be ready to receive a second military blow. At the same time when we talk about peace, this does not mean that we will neglect the process of building our intrinsic power in order to be capable of warding off evil and harm. We can talk about what our brothers the media people can understand more than others in our Arab world. If we compare what Israel gets annually in order to build its military power, to build settlements with what is given to our Arab nation in order to defend itself.... [sentence incomplete]

When we talk about peace, we mean peace. We do not mean capitulation. If, God forbid, the battle is imposed on us we will resist with all our capabilities and with our souls. Practically speaking we have things missing. There are problems and there is a summit that convened in Baghdad. The summit convened. That was fine and good news. It adopted a decision compatible with the condition. This summit is supposed to convene every year in order to review what we did during the year and what our enemy did during this period, and how we can improve or promote our standard of preparation. Libya never honored a commitment. Algiers is thankful — it has its own conditions. Iraq has its conditions. We are supposed to aid it. Our brothers in Kuwait have their own conditions this year which you know very well. Some of our brothers are hesitant in this matter. Saudi Arabia, so far, pays its installments regularly. But, in what way is this compared to the genuine danger? Some of the billions come in the form of donations, while the others come in installments over years. How do we look at this situation as our brothers are forced to receive commercial loans in order to pay for the costs of the weapons contracts which they signed to support the Arab position?

This matter has to do with the Baghdad summit and almost the year that followed — and not with what happened in this period. There is a strategic agreement in something proposed. [as published] We undoubtedly have to concentrate on this issue. We develop our bilateral relations in every field. We have contacts continuously. We also have contacts with the other brothers as we move within the international arena.

The Egyptians have a plan that is not different from what is being proposed, such as the international conference. This dialogue had been conducted through messages and recently through contacts. We have to discuss the matters openly before the world.

The situation in the United States in 1967 was much worse than in 1956. The situation since 1967 has been favoring Israel continuously. The United States reached the point of nailing down a strategic alliance. We told them you cannot be the neutral side and work in favor of peace. The matter reached this point. The United States definitely has its leverage and weight, and so does the Soviet Union. UN Resolution 242 is the cornerstone of the matter. When we talked about this resolution we visited the capitals of the five permanent UN Security Council member countries. Why is UN Resolution 242 the only basis?

I am confident that the Soviet Union and the United States will hold a dialogue and reinstate contacts at some point. Let us expand the circle to include the remaining countries, namely the PRC, Britain, and France in addition to all the concerned sides, the Palestinians, and the PLO. The truth is that nothing has been proposed. The image we have before us is the ugliest ever. In return, we have to have an understanding, cooperation, and coordination on matters.

Question: Could the restoration of your relations with Egypt cast a shadow on relations with Syria?

Answer: Unfortunately, relations with Syria are not up to us. They are not based on personal differences, and personal differences were not the reason for the rupture of relations. Our differences with Syria are on issues. We supported them entering Lebanon against the view of many of our brethren. There were even those in the Arab homeland who believed that the process was to stop the bloodshed in order to open a way for a Lebanese-Lebanese and a Lebanese-Palestinian dialogue that would prevent Israel from achieving its goals, which it did later on.

Naturally, the method of handling the Lebanese issue was also one of the reasons for differences between us.

Regarding the PLO issue since 1974, we maintained the principle that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Arab Palestinian people. Under no circumstances can we accept what happened to the PLO. Also, their stance toward the Iraq-Iran war, their attempts to impose their view on the Arab nation and to prevent the Arab nation from meeting or making a move one way or another, are among the reasons for our difference. Their stance toward me is negative on every issue. These are the reasons for our differences with them. Regarding the PNC, what happened was that the brethren decided to meet with us. They are welcome and we do not have any objection. The PLO should be free from all pressure and influence; it should bear its responsibility and play its role because it reflects the ambitions and the desires of the Palestinians which it represents. We have never allowed ourselves or would allow any other side to turn the PLO into a toy in the hands of any country. If all the doors are closed to them so that they cannot meet and discuss their issues and make their position clear one way or another, the doors of Jordan will remain open to them. This is our position. Will they meet or not? I do not know exactly, but we have no objections to their meeting.

Question: Your Majesty, you said that the decision to restore relations with Egypt was taken long ago ... [the king interrupts: This is not a decision but a conviction] Your Majesty, it is known that often you would not take a step without consulting your brethren, the leaders, the kings, and those with whom you have good relations. Were there any contacts with the Arab leadership before you proposed the idea?

Answer: The information we have affirms this.

Question: But their statements contradict this.

Answer: No sir, it was a coincidence that I called all my brethren on the Islamic New Year. I called my brethren in the Gulf, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia, in addition to Morocco and talked to them about the decision.

Question: Your Majesty, we can stop the recorder if anything disturbs you.

Answer: No sir, this is only for your information. The answers varied between knowing the decision without discussing it, welcoming the idea or the step, and blessing it.

Question: Your Majesty, in the space of 17 days you have met with defense ministers of three Western countries who were honored to meet you. Currently, they are, or Amman is, talking about your visit to the Soviet Union. As an Arab citizen, I am puzzled by the fact that three European countries have sent their defense ministers to Jordan. [The king interrupts, saying: and the United States.] And the United States, of course. Following these visits, you are heading for the Soviet Union, with which rapprochement has caused differences between Amman and Washington. As an Arab citizen, I am bewildered by these events and would like to hear an interpretation from Your Majesty.

Answer: We have been fundamentally against the policy of axes in the region, demonstrating this by not belonging to the East or the West. Our relations with all are based on mutual respect, and we believe in not relinquishing the achievements of our predecessors. Our relations with the Soviet Union are based on frankness and directness, and they cannot be, in the short or long term, affected by any outside factors. We have decided to vary our sources of arms. However, even if we do not follow this principle, the Soviet Union is a superpower capable of replacing another superpower and matching its capabilities. We are trying to vary our sources of arms supply, and we are convinced that this is in the interest of all in the Arab world. For this reason buying arms from the Soviet Union will not harm our principles. At the same time, we are dealing with our friends in Europe, especially Britain and France, to obtain arms that will enable us to fill some gaps in our defense system. Regarding the United States, we have made it clear and stressed on more than one occasion that we are not going to them to ask for arms, accept conditional arms deals, or accept an insult to the dignity of this country. That is our current policy on arms. With regard to the visit, and all that remains to be done is to fix the date.

Question: Does this mean that Jordan, under your leadership, has begun to recognize the role of the Soviet Union in trying to solve the Middle East problem?

Answer: God knows, Sir, that this is not a matter of recognition. We have been calling for a role to be played by the Soviet Union, as well as the United States and Britain according to the Fes conference resolutions and UN Resolution 242.

Question: All the permanent members?

Answer: Resolution 242 is connected with Resolution 338 and consequently with the Geneva conference. There is no change at all. There is nothing new in the U.S. arena either. Nothing has been offered. The situation has become clearer. On occasions suspicion about Jordan's stands has been expressed. From 1974 until now, the PLO has been subjected to attempts aimed at destroying it so that a new vacuum can be created. Prior to 1974, Jordan was responsible for the territory that had been occupied in the wars. The issues have been hanging in the balance. One minute the Israelis express their readiness to negotiate with the Palestinians in occupied Palestine, and the next minute they do not want to negotiate with Jordan. My brother, we have reached a conclusion that can only be reached by logic.

Jordanians and Palestinians must cooperate on a strong basis of trust and realize that their fate is the same. Thanks to God, we have taken reasonable strides and passed intermediate stages with regard to achieving this cooperation. Jordan alone cannot shift Israel from the occupied territories. Israel is supported by the United States, materially, militarily, psychologically, and politically. Israeli ministers are saying that the West Bank is part of Israel. Because of these events, we will find Jordanians, Palestinians, and the Arab nation against us. We will also find the United States, Israel, the Soviet Union, and all the world against us. I mean, what can we achieve from such activities? Who might one day say that I or somebody from this country bargained for Jerusalem, a stone in Jerusalem, or a piece of land? All this commotion is not worth it.

Question: Your Majesty, let us be frank. If Israel suggested to you to negotiate with it on behalf of the Palestinians or in the context of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, would you accept? Or have you any other idea?

Answer: On what basis?

Question: On the basis of the present relations and the rapprochement between you.

Answer: Naturally, I do not know exactly what will come out of the coordination and cooperation between us and the Palestinians. However, we shall be in the position — in my view and if God permits — which delivers the initiative into the Arab hand so that it can take form internationally in a manner that will achieve self-determination. As for the question of Israel saying why it did not make such a proposal in 1967 and withdraw, we could have finalized this matter. Israel's intention is to keep the land. The results of the last three elections were such that the radicals were continuously emerging in the arena. For the past 2 and 1/2 years, one went and one came, and nothing else. There are even ministers in it who claim that the East Bank is part of Israel. What is it that we need to negotiate about? Resolution 242? We understood Resolution 242 in 1967 — and this was the way we understood it with the U.S. and Egyptian sides at that time — to mean a withdrawal from all the occupied territories in exchange for peace. As for the West Bank, there could be some changes in parts of the truce line; this is agreed upon by both parties, and Jerusalem would return to Arab domination. In a peaceful conception, Jerusalem would be the capital of those who believe in God. This thing, that, you can say, therefore, when one says 242, is America ready for this? [as published] With this condition in mind, we are trying as Jordanians and Palestinians to organize ourselves in the Arab world, including Egypt, and with our brothers for it to be effective and so that the people would in one way or another have consideration for us. But this condition makes one unhappy with oneself, and this is the feeling of every one of you.

Question: Your Majesty, here is a basic point. If we go back to Resolution 242 and to the Fes summit resolutions, we find that there is an implicit recognition of the existence of the Zionist entity. When we say if Israel returns to the 1967 borders, this implies that the territories it occupied in 1948 and 1967 belong to the Zionist entity on which the state of Israel exists. Unfortunately, in all the resolutions adopted there was not a single Arab leader who said yes, we recognize Israel within these borders — which are the 1967 borders. We are now recognizing Israel implicitly. Why then talk about an implicit recognition? There is no public recognition. What is the justification?

Answer: The justification is that you cannot give [make concessions] more than what the Arab nation has made so far without getting any results. In other words, foreigners ask us repeatedly: What is your position? Is it tactical? [taktikiyah] No, it is not tactical. There is no minimum or maximum limit. In other words, until 1974 we actually used to demand all the territories that were occupied.

In the seventies we proposed numerous alternatives for the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship to be based on unity among ourselves one way or another, or to have the matter restored in a way it was before, or to have two independent states. The result was a strong opposition. As this question was raised repeatedly, we used to tell them that Resolution 242 implies recognition of the rights of everybody. But on what bases is Israel [included]? Is it the Israel of 1948, 1949, or of 1956 and 1967? Israel is now occupying all of Palestine and parts of other Arab countries. Which Israel are we going to talk about?

Question: In other words, therefore, we have now accepted the de facto situation?

Answer: Unfortunately our Arab leaderships did not have the audacity to speak, and instead of talking about implicit recognition, they talked about public recognition. This is what the United States is demanding, and we all know that it is behind Israel and Israel cannot cease to exist while the United States still exists. From this point of view, let us say in all honesty that implicit recognition by Arab leaders does now exist. Let's publicly say Israel.

Question: We have accepted the de facto situation but nobody is accepting it in return.

Answer: Israel always says that the Arab countries do not recognize it. Let us recognize Israel as Arab leaders recognize Israel, and say that we are ready to recognize it within the 1967 borders. Come on Israel, give us what you have. But we always talk about an implicit recognition as Your Majesty has remarked. Israel is continuing to swallow the territories, to erect settlements and to continue the occupation. Our Arab disintegration is cursed, cursed, cursed. Excuse my language. Unfortunately, the territories are lost — even our dignity is lost. The implicit recognition exists but the public one does not. I don't know the justification for this, but as long as the leaders demand it then let them go ahead and say it.

Answer: No, if there is an idea to hold an international or noninternational conference, this point will be discussed. The picture has changed since 1974 and the PLO has become the legitimate representative. It also says that it cannot recognize unilaterally, it should be simultaneous or at any stage. What's the outcome in return?

Question: Permit me Your Majesty. During the Rabat conference in 1974, you were the only one who opposed granting the PLO the right to sole representation of the Palestinian people. Now, after 10 years have passed since this decision was made, do you believe it was the right decision at the time?

Answer: I can only say that it was a decision. When it was taken we adhered to it and we shall continue to adhere to it until God wills. The question is one of removing the effects of aggression when it comes to what we feel. But as far as the Palestinian question is concerned, its people must become a main factor at any moment.

Question: It is said that a contact was made between Jordan and Shim'on Peres when he was leader of the opposition. Now that Shim'on Peres heads the coalition government in Israel, do you believe that it is possible — considering the coalition composition of the Likud and Labor Party — for a seed of peace with Israel to exist?

Answer: No sir. The contact never took place. There was no contact whatsoever with Peres when he was in the opposition.

Question: This was published in the Western press, you know.

Answer: I do not know why such a thing is proposed to others. But our stand is clear. Perhaps the goal of such proposals is known, but the truth is that this may have to do with the election process which we used to observe. That is, if this group had succeeded this could probably be an indication of some sort of change in the views of some Israeli voters. But the truth is that the election itself is evidence that no change has taken place.

Question: Your Majesty. Following up this question, it is being said that one of the reasons for the restoration of relations with Egypt is Likud's threat to topple the regime in Jordan. But since the Likud has come back in a coalition government, the danger may not have been eliminated. could this danger continue to exist, both during the presence of the Likud in opposition and its presence in government?

Answer: The danger does undoubtedly exist. The danger exists, existed, and is still there.

Question: Is it true that one of the Likud's plans was to topple the Hashemite regime in Jordan?

Answer: They do say that openly. This is one of their goals.

Question: What are the reasons? You are not one of the Arab hawks.

Answer: No. They talk about an alternative homeland. They talk about a wall. In my opinion, if they can cross this wall and get in a position whereby they threaten these who are behind us, one of our brothers, then what is it that they cannot achieve. So we are one of their main goals.

Question: Your Majesty, let us go back to Arab-Arab relations. Unfortunately, Arab relations with Tripoli and Damascus have become the worst possible and their reflection on the Arab situation has increased our grief, particularly with regard to the Iraqi-Iranian war. If the difference, which has now become public, is a personal one between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Saddam Husayn, will the Arab people destroy each other just because one leader is annoyed with the other? You are an experienced personality who has coexisted with Arab politics since the fifties. What is your opinion?

Answer: Believe me Sir, I affirm to you that this situation is...

Question: Is it possible now to restore relations between Amman and Damascus?

Answer: If the issues I previously mentioned are resolved, then the picture changes. This means that the differences are on issues and not stances. I believe that our stance is the stance of each Arab in this homeland. It means that the influence that my answer has on you while you are asking this question is the same it has on any of my brothers.

Question: Your Majesty, I am asking the question from one assumption: I do not know what Damascus wants. You can state your position, but do you know what Damascus is thinking and can tell us what its demands are?

Answer: Believe me, I do not know. Precisely speaking, I do not know if it has anything to do with the Arab interest.

Question: The Middle East problem is always the axis of our concerns. Observers note the presence of two political currents regarding its settlement. The Iraqi-Iranian war is another problem which has arisen. One school supports the convention of an international conference to be attended by all parties including the PLO, and the other advocates dependence on the United States and U.S. initiatives. What is Your Majesty's opinion?

Answer: I told you my comment. In my opinion an international conference is the only way to find a solution, and the United States has a great role to play. However, it must play its role within the international group or else lose its credibility and its ability to prove to us in the situation we are living in that it is neutral. It is a strategic ally of one of the sides of the conflict and is a partner of one on the other side. This is the problem.

Question: We lost confidence in the United States. Does this mean that we must not depend on it in all our contacts?

Answer: We must continue to wage our struggle against the evil of our enemies in the U.S. arena. We have no problems in other capitals or countries. However, we cannot go so far as to say that the United States is capable of making peace on the bases we want. Let the United States say so itself. It still adheres to the same stance on the form of the solution upon which we agreed in 1967.

Question: This question is in two parts or two separate questions. 1. Are you facing danger from Syria? 2. Is it true that the Sultanate of Oman will finance the French arms deal?

Answer: By God no, I never heard of it, although the brothers do not spare us anything.

Question: Or is it Saudi Arabia?

Answer: Believe me Sir, there is no such thing. We are now talking about settling our loans.

Question: What about the first part of the question?

Answer: Concerning the first part of the question, unfortunately, strange things are happening in the Arab world and we have suffered from them. We were attacked by Syria in the seventies. In 1980 there was a large military concentration on our northern borders; but I do not know what might happen to us. However, our country is now easy because each individual in it is alert and capable of fulfilling his obligations.

Question: I have a question regarding the economy. About 4 or 5 years ago Gulf countries were rushing to invest in the Kingdom, and at first this investment was welcomed. However, after these companies succeeded and their capital did not meet their needs — where negotiation was required the investor lost the right to contribute further capital. But an increase in capital is subject to general contribution — this is the right of the Jordanian citizen. However, as an Arab citizen I was deprived of that right. I believe that this is one of the main reasons that kept some Arab and Gulf capital from coming to Jordan for investment. What is your comment?

Answer: We would like the picture to be as every brother wishes. If they want to invest, this is their country. I believe that there were some simple problems which were supposed to have been solved on the bases of resumption of discussion and dialogue — even if there were some matters that caused complaints from our brothers which we talked about in the latest visit to Kuwait.

Question: In short, do their points pertain to currently valid laws, including administrative measures that will be subject to reconsideration and amendment?

Answer: In short, brothers, there are points pertaining to the currently valid laws which we are dealing with now; this is one point. The second point deals with the law of administrative measures. We promised our Kuwaiti brothers and others that we are ready to negotiate on these points and to put Arab-Jordanian economic relations, including Kuwaiti relations, within a new framework for cooperation and discussion of all these problems. We and our Kuwaiti brothers have joint discussion points and they are ready to be looked into now. When there is a high-level Jordanian visit to Kuwait or a Kuwaiti visit to Jordan, these economic and financial relations, including investments, will be discussed. We are serious about discussing these matters.

Question: This question might be sensitive. There was a period when Jordanian-Iraqi relations, whether on the official or public levels, were at their best. However, recently, and in the past 8 months in particular, a kind of tepidity has been noticed not on the official level but on the public level. I believe that the reason for this is economic incentive; there was a market for Jordanian products in Iraq, but due to the circumstances of war, there has been a lack of funds and many companies in Jordan have been harmed. While the basis for this tepidity is on the public level, it is greater than expected. We did not expect money to affect relations.

Answer: We cannot accept such a situation even on the public level. We as officials and citizens and many of our brothers feel that some companies have lost much in the Iraqi market because they imported, invested money, produced, or put out their money without accurate accounts. Thus it is not right to put the blame on Iraq because this may lead to negative repercussions. Now the picture is returning to normal. The economic stress in relations on the public level and the private sector has gradually begun to reverse itself.

Question: We are concerned about what goes on in the Arab arena, especially in Kuwait; as you know, Kuwait has been faced with many sensitive issues and questions. What is your opinion?

Answer: I would like to refer to a specific sector, that being transportation. Some time ago there were questions to be answered on this subject and there was some negligence by the private sector which resulted in certain developments in Iraq. A certain defficiency was caused in the export of goods to Iraq from Arab ports, which raised questions about the owners of some transporters. There are both Jordanian and Iraqi public sector companies and private sector companies, and it is very difficult to reach 100 percent agreement between them under all circumstances because of differing interests.

It is true that this difficult period has passed. However, we were obliged to overcome the difficulties at the expense of Jordanian roads. Prior to that we were applying the law of loads to preserve the roads. This cost us millions or hundreds of millions so that the roads would not be destroyed too quickly. That period was accompanied by recession, which caused a problem in transportation, as an increased number of transporters had a somewhat adverse effect on the companies, resulting in a reaction. How did we solve the problem? We went back on our decision and allowed transportation of freight that contravened all our laws on road maintenance, so that Iraqi transportation would not be affected. By direct support, we hoped that we could balance the situation. We have given the private sector transportation companies another chance, as the situation in Iraq has begun to improve gradually. We hope that once this problem is solved or eradicated, God willing, everything with regard to the transportation problem will be settled.

Question: According to official statistics, salaries of Jordanians working in the Gulf form a main portion of the Jordanian balance of payments. What has Jordan done to attract these citizens to participate in housing projects?

Answer: First of all, the housing projects are for those of limited income, and those of limited income are government employees whether they are inside or outside Jordan.

Question: I am talking about those outside Jordan.

Answer: So far our priority has been to allocate housing projects to those who have limited income, and government military and civilian employees have limited income. These housing projects, which we can call the first stage, are not for the private sector. As far as our brothers abroad are concerned, I must refer to social security. Their participation in the institution of social security and its reflection on their share in housing has recently begun. We hope it will expand with time and that the shares of people who qualify will increase, so that they will have more choices, especially in housing. With regard to the economy, we, as well as everybody else, are looking forward to the next planning stage and will be forming committees for this purpose. I wish there could be some coordination between the Jordanians in Kuwait and the other Gulf countries and the next planning committee, so that all will be covered by the next plan when, God willing, we form the committee. I hope this stand pleases you, God willing.

Question: It has been publicized that Jordan has refused to grant passports to some Palestinians who have travel documents and who have experienced much suffering in Syria or Lebanon.

Answer: Sir, we give passports to anyone who meets the applicable conditions. We sometimes issue them to those who do not meet the conditions. We consider what we can do. In reply to those who ask this question, we say: Why does only Jordan and not others have to discuss this issue? Why do those who carry travel documents have to suffer from not having passports? Why is this question addressed only to Jordan?

Question: Being a geographic extension of Syria, in itself. [sentence as published]

Answer: This very Syria? [sentence as published]

Question: Foreign companies have been unsuccessful in extracting oil. What is the situation?

Answer: We have tried to make use of foreign companies in past years. They said that commercial oil did not exist due to geological faults. However, Jordan is not like other countries in the region and this is why oil that was present oozed out. Thank God, we discovered it. It is of a good quality but we do not know exactly the quantity. We discovered part of it and we hope that we will have it in the future. We are still at the beginning of the process and we will be successful, God willing.

Question: Your Majesty, it is said that there is an intention — Mr Prime Minister, allow us to ask this question — to shortly undertake a ministerial reshuffle. Is this correct?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Can this be published?

Answer: Some of the portfolios undoubtedly will be changed.

Question: Your Majesty, there is a sensitive issue. This issue is the trial of officers involved in drugs and the smuggling of weapons, and the verdicts that were issued with regard to bribes and corruption in the bodies of the capital municipality and the land registry office. Have these trials been exaggerated?

Answer: Exaggerated? They were not exaggerated. Matters dealing with certain incidents that actually took place will be followed up.

Question: These matters were exaggerated abroad and in Israel.

Answer: Thank God, this is no more than an issue of one employee. Our position is much better than similar situations in areas neighboring us.

Question: The government did not issue an explanatory statement. The rumors are disclaimed only by official confrontation and official statements. The government did not issue a statement with regard to these verdicts. The rumors leaked and became known. Can you explain this issue?

Answer: On the contrary, these are verdicts. The courts are public and the convicted have lawyers. That is why there is no need to issue statements on verdicts issued through legal channels. We do not deny that the deputy prime minister and interior minister in an open seminar on television talked about this issue as a whole, the scale of the rumors, their sources, and facts pertaining to the issue. I am amazed that our brothers in Kuwait are not following up this issue. There could be some exaggeration. As for the issue of lands, there are no forgeries.

Question: Your Majesty, actually, you have already surprised me with the answer. When will the government reshuffle take place?

Answer: Abu Thamir [Jordanian Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat] needs time to see if his ministers are carrying out their duties.

Question: The prime minister will form a new government?

Answer: No, he will not form a new government. He will only reshuffle the present government.

Question: What are the main portfolios that will be changed?

Answer: Then we might as well announce it tonight. [laughter]

Question: Let's announce it. Your Majesty, you saw Ahmad al-Jarallah [editor of Kuwait paper *AL-SIYASAH*] alone, but there are three of us.

Answer: This is your place and your home and you are welcome here at all times.

Question: Thank you. Your Majesty, was the decision to boycott Egypt at the Baghdad summit adopted unanimously?

Answer: The Baghdad summit did not adopt any resolutions on relations with Egypt. A recommendation was made [on severing relations with Egypt] at a meeting of Arab foreign and economics ministers.

Question: Was the recommendation binding?

Answer: No, it was just a recommendation which an Arab country can voluntarily accept or not accept.

Question: Therefore the restoration of relations with Egypt is also not subject to a decision [by an Arab summit]

Answer: No.

Question: That is what we wanted to know. The restoration of relations does not require a [summit] decision.

Question: Let us say there is a rumor that after Syria stopped pumping Iraqi oil through its territory, there was a proposal to build an oil pipeline through Jordanian territory to Aqaba. It is said that the Soviet Union is seeking to stop this project. If the answer is negative, that is, if the Soviet Union had nothing to do with the matter, then why has the project stopped?

Answer: The project has not stopped. It is still being discussed. The Soviet Union has nothing whatsoever to do with the matter.

The project was studied when a certain party offered to finance and implement it.

Question: A Treasury report says that there are Jordanian companies with capital of 5 million Jordanian dinars registered as consolidated capital. There is registered capital and there are also economic contracts in Jordan. What is your majesty's view? There is a terrible recession in the Amman stock market — will the Al-Manakh market affair [of Kuwait] be repeated in Jordan?

Answer: God willing it won't be.

Question: Of course you are aware of the background of the Al-Manakh market affair?

Answer: We hear about it. With regard to Jordan, the economic situation here, as in other countries is affected by the world economic situation from which everyone is suffering. Part of our difficulties in the past 2 years, particularly on the government level, is because some of our brothers have so far not fulfilled their financial commitments to us. The fact is that this affects us a great deal — with all the threats and challenges facing us we cannot ignore the military aspect.

Question: Which countries have not fulfilled their commitments?

Answer: Mainly Libya. We are grateful to Algeria, which gave assistance for 1 year. Iraq would have helped if it could have, but I do not expect aid from it. The Saudi payments are connected with helping us settle the deficit in our balance of payments and it has given us aid for 1 year, for which we are thankful.

Question: What about Kuwait?

Answer: Kuwait is continuing its aid, but recently there has been some reduction. The UAE and Qatar are late in their payments, but they say that this is a temporary situation that will be overcome. These are the circumstances. Immediately after the Baghdad summit we committed ourselves to the purchase of arms from many parties in the world. The arms arrived and in some cases we were compelled to make commercial loans to pay for them.

The balance of power in relation to Israel and the dangers that threaten us are clear. The picture that existed at the time of the Baghdad summit has changed and therefore our commitments have changed: We now need more arms and we need to make greater efforts. We are beginning the work of building a popular army. We have a very large number of citizens who are prepared for any emergency. The reason for the delay in forming the popular army is financial — in addition to some special reasons.

Question: When representatives of the foreign press ask for appointments to interview Arab kings and presidents they are granted appointments quickly. If the minister of information allows us we shall turn to Jordan: When a delegation of American journalists, say from *THE WASHINGTON POST*, *THE NEW YORK TIMES*, and the *LOS ANGELES TIMES* or other papers, come to Jordan, they are granted a private interview. When British journalists from *THE GUARDIAN*, *THE OBSERVER*, or *THE DAILY TELEGRAPH*, for instance, ask for interview appointments the interview is not granted to them altogether as a group. In the Arab world in general, and in Jordan where we are now, when we from the Kuwaiti press ask for interviews we are granted such interviews as a group and we have to come all together.

Answer: You are right. You are our brothers and we pin great hopes on you and have absolute confidence in you. You support us at present and in the future. With regard to foreign journalists, if there is a problem I want to raise in the United States and discuss with a U.S. party on the basis that the problem exists in the United States and not among us here they come over; they ask us and we ask them in order to clarify matters.

This is your home and your place, and we are prepared to meet with any of the brother journalists.

Question: There is no doubt about it?

Answer: On the contrary, I am pleased to learn of this high level of thinking and knowledge. I am proud of them.

Question: Your Majesty, are the Kuwaiti papers taken directly from the plane to the market, or are they censored?

Answer: I swear by God I do not know.

Question: After all, we are responsible members of the press.

Answer: God knows, the Kuwaiti press is sincere.

Question: We are proud of this fact. On the subject of the Lebanese issue....

Answer: I cannot see an end to it in the near future. Lebanon will not be the same again. It has been divided, shaken, and torn according to Syrian and Israeli wishes. There is a U.S. initiative on securing Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, but where to? What security terms, including maritime and economic terms, will Israel offer?

Question: A most recent development has been a statement made by a Dutch parliamentarian group in Israel. They said that Syria, especially through Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, has said to them that it will guarantee securing the northern borders of Israel.

Answer: In the meantime, we will have an international force in the Golan Heights. What work will there be left for us to do?

Question: What I am saying, Your Majesty, requires attention. There are Egyptian-Israeli peace accords which resorted to deploying an international and U.S. force in the Sinai, if the plan is completed. There was an agreement between Israel and Lebanon, according to which an international force was to separate the Lebanese from the Israelis. Currently, there is talk of expanding the tasks of the international force in southern Lebanon and between Syria and Israel from the south.

Answer: Your question is why is there not also an international force in Jordan?

Question: Exactly.

Answer: It would appear to be so.

Richard Murphy Leaves Amman After Talks

JN051850 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn received U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Richard Murphy at the Royal Hashemite Court at noon today. The U.S. ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

Murphy left Amman this evening.

USSR Envoy Addresses Anniversary Ceremony

JN051007 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Nov 84 p 21

[Text] Amman — The 67th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution [GOSR] was celebrated yesterday at the offices of the Jordan-Soviet Friendship Society. The celebration was attended by Bahjat al-Talhuni, member of the Senate and chairman of the society, and Rafik Nishanov, the USSR ambassador to Jordan.

At the beginning of the celebration, Al-Talhuni made a speech in which he praised the USSR stand in support of the just Arab issues, especially the Palestinian people's right to return to their land and to determine their own destiny.

Al-Talhuni said that Jordan and the USSR have established strong ties of friendship based on mutual respect and noninterference in each other's internal affairs.

Al-Talhuni added that King Husayn's visits to the USSR have contributed to the strengthening of friendship and relations in all fields. Al-Talhuni then reviewed the society's role in strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Al-Talhuni praised the economic and industrial progress which the USSR has acheived under the October Revolution and noted the USSR's role in bolstering world peace and security.

Al-Talhuni said that Jordan has pursued a balanced, enlightened course in its relationship with the USSR. Jordan preserved its national, pan-Arab interests, its Islamic teachings and culture, and its social and constitutional systems, and at the same time respected the USSR's social system and international status. These concepts and this common view have greatly contributed to the growth and development of relations on the basis of mutual respect, he said.

Al-Talhuni said that the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society is proud of its effective role according to this true meaning of friendship.

Al-Talhuni congratulated the USSR people on this occasion.

Rafik Nishanov, the USSR ambassador to Jordan, then delivered his speech in which he affirmed that Soviet-Jordanian relations are witnessing tangible development in the various fields and that His Majesty King Husayn's constant visits to the USSR and meetings with the USSR leaders are the best proof of the ever-developing friendship between the two peoples.

Nishanov expressed his country's convinction that it will be possible to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East through an international conference for this purpose attended by all the parties concerned, including the PLO. He explained that the world nations' stand on the Soviet proposals concerning this issue is the best proof of the USSR's true desire to achieve a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis which has continued for a long time.

The Soviet ambassador expressed his country's appreciation of His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian Government for backing the Soviet proposals on holding the international peace conference. He pointed out that these proposals are in harmony with the principles that were adopted by the 1982 Arab summit conference in Rabat concerning Middle East peace.

Nishanov called for the development of cooperation between the USSR and Jordan on the one hand and between the USSR and the Arab states on the other in the interest of all parties.

Nishanov also called for concerted Arab efforts to achieve more Arab solidarity in order to confront successfully Israel's expansionist ambitions in the Arab homeland. He affirmed that Arab divisions and differences only benefit the anti-Arab forces. The following are highlights of the ambassador's speech:

Friends, permit me first to express my heartfelt gratitude to you for organizing this auspicious celebration and for giving me the opportunity to speak before you on the 67th anniversary of the GOSR. We thank His Excellency Bahjat al-Talhuni for his fine speech on this great occasion.

We Soviets proudly say that the victory of the great October Revolution was the most important event in the 20th century, and changed the entire course of human development.

We have now reached a high level of economic and social progress and a greater degree of moral and political unity within Soviet society, which gives us the right to say confidently that we have a strong foundation for a new mighty upsurge for the material and spiritual forces of our great homeland.

But peoples' memories are always alive. Very soon we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the victory in the great national war of 1941-1945.

The strengthening of peace calls for an immediate just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. In less than four decades, the Middle East has witnessed five devastating wars started by Israel. In each of these bloody wars Arab towns were bombed, hundreds of villages were destroyed, and Islamic holy places were damaged. Thousands of Palestinians, Lebanese, Syrian, Jordanians, and

Egyptians were also martyred. The Syrian Golan Heights, the West Bank, the Gaza sector, East Jersualem, and southern Lebanon are still in the clutches of the Israeli occupiers. Mankind will remember forever the savage crimes that were and still are committed by the Israeli aggressors and their supporters.

In these circumstances, the common efforts of the Arab states and the firm solidarity of their peoples constitute two essential bases for successfully confonting Israel's expansionist ambitions. Differences and divisions between Arab capitals and also inside some of the Arab liberation movement groups only benefit anti-Arab forces.

The purpose of the famous Soviet proposals announced this year on 29 July is to save the Middle East from the present state of bloodshed and constantly explosive situation. These proposals are in practical harmony with the principles approved by the Arab summit conference held in Fes, Morocco, in September 1982. Backstage intrigues and separate peace deals did not bring peace to the Middle East peoples. And it is obvious that they will never bring such peace.

The USSR is convinced that the achievement of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East is possible through the immediate convocation of an international conference on the Middle East problem with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the full and essential participation of the PLO. The attitude toward and the support of these proposals has now become the test that will show how sincere this or that state is about achieving a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis, which has continued for a long time.

His Majesty King Husayn and other Jordanian officials have often expressed their full support for the Soviet proposals which call for an international conference on the Middle East problem. There is an equal and mutually beneficial cooperation between the USSR and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jrodan. His Majesty King Husayn's constant visits to the USSR and fruitful meetings with the Soviet leaders are best proof of the ever-developing friendship between our two peoples. There have been many exchanges of delegations between our two countries.

The relations of equal friendship between the USSR and Jordan and also between the USSR and the other Arab world states provide categorical proof to the Arab peoples that our country is not seeking any political or economic privileges in the Near East.

The USSR firmly calls for concerted efforts with young independent nations and with national liberation movements. The USSR always defends their just interests in the international arena.

Briefs

Phosphate Sales Increase — Amman PETRA — The Jordanian Phosphate Company's sales during the first 10 months of this year have increased at a rate of 33 percent. These sales amounted 4,530,000 tons compared to 3,400,000 tons during the same period last year. [Text] [*Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Nov 84 p 2 JN*]

Egyptian-Jordanian Air Route — Amman PETRA — The Royal Jordanian Airlines, Alia, will make its first flight from Aqaba to Cairo on 15 November. Egypt Air flights from Cairo to Aqaba are due to begin in the near future. Jordan and Egypt agreed to operate these flights during the recent meeting between representatives of Alia and Egypt Air. [Text] [*Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Nov 84 p 5 JN*]

Islamic Resistance Rejects Negotiations With 'Enemy'

NC051406 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] The Islamic resistance has rejected negotiations with the enemy, be it through the military or under the auspices of the United Nations, out of its loyalty to the blood of martyrs who died in defense of: the freedom of mankind, our land, and the dignity of our existence and destiny.

A statement issued by the Islamic resistance warned those taking part in the negotiations that dialogue with the enemy can only be carried out through the weapons of the Islamic resistance.

Islamic Jihad Issues Warning

NC051624 Paris AFP in English 1623 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Beirut, Nov 5 (AFP) — A number of radical Islamic organisations today warned against planned Lebanese-Israeli military negotiations this week, threatening that those who took part "will have to take the consequences of their act."

The Lebanese Foreign Ministry said today that the meeting, seen as a possible prelude to Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon, would start at Nakura on the border Thursday. The meeting was postponed from today at Lebanese request, for "technical and logistical reasons."

(In Jerusalem, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said Israel had not yet been informed of Lebanon's willingness to start talks Thursday, but added that Israel would be unlikely to object since it was Lebanon, not Israel, which had originally asked for a postponement.)

A man claiming to represent the Islamic Jihad (holy struggle) organisation telephoned a statement to an international news agency here today, warning that "the names of those people" who took part in the talks "will be added to the Jihad blacklist from the moment the negotiations start."

The Islamic Jihad has claimed responsibility for a number of terrorist attacks, including a bomb attack on the U.S. Embassy annex in Beirut in September in which at least 16 people died, and an attack on the U.S. Marine headquarters in West Beirut in October last year which killed 242 people.

The Shia fundamentalist organisation Hezbollah (party of God) said in a press statement today that all negotiations with "the Hebrew state" were forbidden by religious law, and "the only response to the occupation (of southern Lebanon) is Jihad (holy struggle) and Islamic resistance until Israel is totally annihilated."

Meanwhile, the Islamic resistance organisation condemned the "humiliating negotiations" and warned "all those who take part in any way in the negotiations that they would have to assume responsibility for their actions."

Al-Jumayyil Returns From Algerian Talks

NC051552 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in Beirut this afternoon at the end of a 2-day visit to Algeria. The president's plane landed at Beirut International Airport at 1600. The president and his delegation were met by several officers. The president then left the airport for the presidential palace in B'abda.

President al-Jumayyil left Algeria at 1300 today at the end of a friendly working visit to Algeria; he participated in three rounds of talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. The talks dealt with ways to strengthen relations between the two countries and how to benefit from the Algerian role to end the Lebanese ordeal.

During the talks, the Algerian president affirmed that his country was prepared to carry out its role and utilize its local, regional, and international contacts to contribute toward ending Lebanon's ordeal.

Birri, Junblatt To Attend Cabinet Meeting

NC052140 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Excerpts] Nabih Birri, minister of justice and hydroelectric resources and minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs, has said that he and Minister of Public Works Walid Junblatt will attend the Cabinet meeting this coming Wednesday [7 November]. He noted that this subject was discussed at a meeting with Minister Junblatt this morning. Minister Birri said: Our attendance will be on the basis that the government's policy statement constitutes the minimum level of our demands and that there will be no concessions in this respect. We decided to maintain our political struggle through our presence in the government. This was affirmed by the Amal movement's Political Bureau, which regards this government as not one belonging to a regime but as a government of national unity and hence you cannot speak of loyalist and opposition forces.

On reopening the coastal highway, Minister Birri said that there is an agreement with Minister Junblatt on the priority of reopening the road to the south. There is no objection to the Internal Security Forces, the Army, and legitimate forces to be agreed upon, to take over the road following the Lebanese Forces' withdrawal to prevent any conflict, which we neither want nor desire. He said: Concerning the Army, all that we ask is that the forces deployed should not make their task that of separating the suburb from the south. More specifically, we will not agree to impede the resistance while it is fulfilling its mission. This will safeguard the building of the Army and the role of the Army, which must be deployed up to the international border. This can only be achieved through the national resistance, prior to any armistice or any other agreement. No army which attacks the nationalist forces can liberate its land and people in the south.

Answering a question about the Army brigades which will be sent to the south, Minister Birri said: They are circulating rumors with drums and trumpets that Nabih Birri controls a part of the

Army present in West Beirut, a part which does not belong to the 6th Brigade, which has a specific sectarian nature, which has no task in West Beirut, and that I am refusing its return to the command in Al-Yarzi. If these claims are correct, let them come and take this army and supply it with weapons and equipment. If they want to graft or mix this army and deploy it along the coastal highway, they will then lift Nabih Birri's hegemony on the Army and West Beirut. There is another solution. The 1st Brigade exists. It has not been touched and is still the same. If they want this brigade to be in Al-Mukhtarah, we have no objection. I am saying this on behalf of Walid Jublatt.

Birri added: We are hearing suggestions about the establishment of a 12th Brigade. What for? There is an army which they are providing with neither arms nor uniforms. Why do they want to establish these brigades at a time when we are in a state of austerity? Yesterday they increased the price of gas, and now they are depriving teachers of their livelihood.

Amal's Political Bureau on Talks, Resistance

NC051550 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Nabih Birri, minister of justice and hydroelectric resources and minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs, today chaired a meeting of the Amal movement's Political Bureau, which he convened following his return from Algeria. The talks at the meeting dealt with current developments.

A statement issued by the Bureau said that the conferees decided that the movement's leader, Birri, should stay in power, seek and follow up the implementation of the government's policy statement, bring about the desired reforms, and abolish political sectarianism.

The statement also said that the conferees view the military talks between Lebanon and Israel as being within the framework of the 1949 armistice agreement. However, the Bureau believes the liberation of the south can only be achieved through national resistance and by sponsoring and supporting it.

Junblatt Comments on Talks With Israel

JN030808 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Nov 84 p 1

[By 'Abdallah al-'Utum]

[Text] Amman — Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader and Cabinet Minister Walid Junblatt Friday endorsed the projected Syrian-approved Israeli-Lebanese talks on an Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon, but warned that the talks should be limited to discussing military matters "lest they lead to a new May 17 agreement."

Speaking in an interview with the *JORDAN TIMES* and *AL-RA'Y* at his Amman home, the PSP leader also ruled out British and French troop participation in a police force in the occupied south unless part of a UN force.

On Thursday, the UN announced that Israeli and Lebanese military officials will be meeting Monday at the border town of Al-Naqurah and Syrian Vice-President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, during a visit to Beirut, also indicated Damascus' approval for such talks.

Mr. Junblatt said Friday: "We have said already that we agree to the Al-Naqurah talks. But I warn (the Lebanese Government) against a new May 17 agreement," the PSP leader said, "We demand a total Israel withdrawal unconditionally on the promise that UN forces and the Lebanese Army police the area."

"The Al-Naqurah talks should be limited solely to discussing the way the Israeli withdrawal should be carried out and the way the Lebanese Army and UN forces should take over," he added.

Rejecting the deployment of French and British forces unless as part of UN troops, Mr. Junblatt said: "We had a bitter experience with the MNF (Multi-National Force) as they interfered in our internal affairs and sided with the other side," he said. "We will not accept them unless as a part of UN force."

He said that the situation in the Al-Shuf mountains remained "explosive" and "dangerous... unless the Al-Jumayyil regime agrees to plans conceived at Lausanne for a disengagement of the international road and the Army is replaced by police, fighting will not stop in the area," he said. [sentence as published]

He renewed his attack on President Amin al-Jumayyil saying the president still represented the Phalangists, who he said were trying to dominate the whole of Lebanon. "I and Nabih Birri, Rashid Karami, and Salim al-Huss are representatives of the opposition in the government. This government is not one of national unity but a representation of contradictory forces."

He called for more reforms in the Army saying the officer corps still largely represented the Christians. He also said that the social conditions in Beirut may lead to more poverty and that the situation remains very explosive unless a solution is found.

He leaves for Damascus Saturday and will go to Beirut afterwards to attend a Cabinet meeting on Sunday.

He arrived earlier in the week after a few month's absence from Amman. He has a wife and son here.

Junblatt Rejects Talk of Security Gaps at Airport

NC051316 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Excerpt] In a statement today, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt said: Some trumpets of the shakhbuti [derogatory reference to President al-Jumayyil] regime have been reiterating that there are security gaps at the airport in an attempt to replace the commander of the Airport Security Department with suspicious elements from the Army, such as Muhammad Sa'd, Ahmad 'Ali, and other officers of the Army Intelligence Service.

In my capacity as a minister and a party leader, I warn against any change in the Airport Security Department, because if this happens, it will endanger the security and peace at the airport. If hitherto we have allowed the passage of some symbols or some of the supporters of the regime and its sinister departments, no one should think that we will remain silent about this for long. It is better for the shakhbuti trumpets to shut up and to be aware of the danger of playing with fire.

Forces Demand 'Firmer Attitude' Toward Junblatt

NC060813 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 6 Nov 84

[Text] The Lebanese Forces Command Council met yesterday under Dr Fu'ad Abu Nadir and called on the government to carry out Cabinet decisions in areas controlled by some ministers and not only in liberated areas. The Command Council demanded security to be maintained along the airport road and its vicinity as well as the buildings of the Chamber of Deputies, the Finance Ministry, the banks, and the post offices. This is a matter of urgent priority, the council stated, because the safety of citizens should not be left prey to gunmen's whims.

The Council also called on the government to take a firmer attitude toward Minister Walid Junblatt and his shifting positions on the Army and the negotiations with Israel — he has been calling for security guarantees from Israel and is now trying to postpone negotiations [with Israel] despite Syrian consent to these negotiations.

Concerning Junblatt's attacks on the legitimate institutions, the Maronites, the Phalangists, and the Lebanese Forces, the Command Council decided that it is time everybody perceived Junblatt's deep-rooted complexes. For 2 years, Junblatt has been trying to fragment the country, pull apart the nation, and impose sectarian hegemony on the lives of thousands of Christians in Al-Shuf and 'Alayh, and Sunnite Muslims in the Al-Kharrub region and Beirut.

Finally, the Lebanese Forces Command Council supported the holding of new negotiations with Israel and called for a cohesive Lebanese stand in accordance with the interests of Lebanon.

Army Commander on Use of Ports

NC051519 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Excerpts] Army Commander General Michel 'Awn inspected the joint operations room at the Lebanese Electricity Authority where he was met by chief of the Operations Room Commodore Antoine Kraybi, Lieutenant Colonel Samir Khazin, and several officers of the Army, the Internal Security Forces, Public Security Forces, Coast Guard, as well as customs officers and port controllers.

Addressing the officers, the Army commander said: You are requested today to take the necessary action and implement it immediately without consulting anyone. You have full authority. Do not allow rumors to affect your action because the rumormongers want to paralyze the state. We will not allow any form of chaos. You understand the instructions given to you. The citizens imagine that our steps are a farce. You are requested to affirm the credibility of these steps. The Air Force must be ready to immediatly intercept and attack ships that violate the Cabinet decision requiring the use of legal ports. There is no turning back. Efforts are continuing to bring the situation all along the Lebanese coast under control through the cooperation among all the appropriate authorities. If some departments fail to function, there are many other alternatives to deter those not complying with the laws.

The Army commander stressed: We will not allow our shores to be violated. All ships desiring to enter our legal ports must comply with the local and international laws in force.

Syrian-Flag Ship Intercepted Off Tripoli

NC051854 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] This afternoon the Lebanese Navy intercepted the Ship *Mashallah*, flying the Syrian flag, opposite Tripoli port. The ship's skipper is Captain [name indistinct]. The ship was about to enter the port without a permit. It was towed to Beirut port.

Sources at the operations room have said that the case of the ship *Na'mah* in Tripoli has not been resolved and that the contacts that have been made have been fruitless. As a result one of the [word indistinct] was compelled to anchor opposite of Tripoli port. At the same time, helicopters are observing the movements of the ship, which illegally entered the port last Saturday. Its cargo was unloaded under the supervision of groups of the Islamic Unification Movement. The sources added that Prime Minister Karami is participating in the contacts on the case.

A military officer has said that the Air Force will bomb the ship if its attempts to leave the port before the official transactions relating to the cargo which had been unloaded are completed and the legal customs fees are paid. Only then will it be allowed to leave the area safely.

Gunmen To Withdraw From Tripoli Harbor

NC061208 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 Nov 84

[Text] A meeting was held today at Tripoli harbor between Harbor Director Ahmad Karami and Tripoli Commander Major Marwan Al-Zayn. Following the meeting, which also included some of Tripoli's Security Committee members, Harbor Director Karami said: We have agreed on everything concerning the harbor's security. All the harbor's gates will be closed (?except for) the main gate, which is controlled by the Internal Security Forces. As of this afternoon, all gunmen will pull out of the harbor.

Unidentified 'Warplane' Draws Ground Fire Over Tripoli

NC051453 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Security sources have said that an unidentified warplane overflew Tripoli this afternoon drawing ground fire.

Junblatt Gunmen Fire on Kafr Shima Area

NC060714 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 6 Nov 84

[Text] While calm has been prevailing on the combat lines in the mountain, the Junblatt gunmen resumed their attacks before midnight last night on Kafr Shima and Bsaba. The two towns came under intensive sniper fire from automatic weapons after 2300 from the Junblatt gunmen's positions in Al-Shuwayfat and Al-Ma'rufiyah. Kafr Shima quarters later came under rocket and 60mm and 82mm mortar fire. The shelling continued intermittently for about 1 hour. At approximately 0300 today, Kafr Shima quarters came under bursts of fire from anti-aircraft guns, which continued for some time.

VOAL on Resistence Fighters' Operations

NC051500 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] In the south, Lebanese Islamic and national resistance fighters detonated an explosive device at 0700 this morning when an enemy patrol was passing on the Al-Zahrani-Tyre road. The national resistance fighters also detonated another explosive device when a second enemy patrol passed on the Al-Sharqiyah-al-Nabatiyah road. There is no information about the casualties because the occupation forces have sealed off the two areas.

Later, the enemy forces set fire to gardens near the scene of the first operation on the Tyre road, destroying large areas of citrus and fruit groves.

Meanwhile, security reports received from the south today revealed that the enemy soldiers suffered great losses yesterday when the resistance fighters attacked a foot patrol near Kawthariyat al-Siyad. The reports also said that the occupation forces cordoned off the township and arrested several citizens including 'Adnan Fadl, 'Ali Kujuk, and Hasan Badran.

Syrian Authorities Reportedly Restrict Iranian Flights

NC060728 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 6 Nov 84

[Text] A press source has quoted U.S. media reports as saying that Syrian authorities have recently imposed restrictions on Iranian aircraft flights in Syrian airspace to prevent the arrival of terrorists in Lebanon. The source also reported that Washington has evacuated most of its diplomats from its Beirut, Amman, and Kuwait embassies.

Soviet Official, Delegation Arrive in Damascus

JN051340 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1320 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Damascus, 5 Nov (SANA) — Aleksandr Dzasokhov, first deputy chairman of the Soviet Committee for Soldarity With Asian and African Countries, and his accompanying delegation, arrived in Damascus this afternoon to participate in the solidarity conference organized by the international secretariat for solidarity with the Arab people and their central cause — Palestine and the Arab People's Conference Permanent Secretariat.

He was received at Damascus International Airport by Comrade Ahmad al-Sa'ad , deputy chairman of the Arab Syrian-Soviet Friendship Committee, a number of comrades from the National Command, and the Soviet Embassy's staff in Damascus.

USSR Envoy Meets With Government, Party Officials

Hamdun Receives Soviet Ambassador

JN051330 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1312 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Damascus, 5 Nov (SANA) — Walid Hamdun, deputy prime minister for services affairs, received here today Feliks Fedotov, the Soviet ambassador in Damascus. Talks dealt with the existing relations between the two countries and topics of mutual interest.

Ba'th Official, Fedotov Confer

JN051605 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Damascus, 5 Nov (SANA) — Comrade Dr Sulayman Qaddah, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and chief of the Regional Command's Economic Bureau, and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus have discussed the situation in the region in light of the hegemonic policy that U.S. imperialism is trying to impose on the region under the strategic alliance between the United States and the racist Zionist entity.

Comrade Qaddah affirmed Syria's firm and principled stand in confronting this policy. He praised the militant relations that exist between the two parties and peoples in the two friendly countries — relations that have incessantly developed since the signing of the treaty of cooperation and friendship between the two countries — and the great effect that President Hafiz al-Asad'ssuccessful visit to the USSR had on strengthening and developing relations in all fields.

The Soviet ambassador praised the wise policy that Syria is adopting under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, and renewed the USSR's support for our just causes.

Iraqi Opposition Praises Al-Asad, Denounces Saddam

JN060856 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 6 Nov 84

[Excerpts] Damascus — The leaders of the National and Patriotic Democratic Front in Iraq have praised the results of their recent meetings with President Hafiz al-Asad. They greeted Syria's role and its firm and principled confrontation of the treasonous imperialist-Zionist plots in the Arab region.

In a radio interview last night, they denounced Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn's policy. They held the Iraqi regime responsible for the destructive war that has been affecting Iraq for 5 years. They expressed determination to escalate the struggle to topple Saddam Husayn and his fascist policy as a necessary step to end the Iraq-Iran war and to save Iraq from the threats of total collapse.

Leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan Mas'ud Barzani praised President Hafiz al-Asad, his basic role and wise leadership in confronting the imperialist-Zionist forces in the region.

Iraqi Communist Party Central Committee member Fakhri Karim stressed that meeting of the front's leaders with President Hafiz al-Asad is of extraordinary importance in the current circumstances. He added: During the meeting, President al-Asad expressed concern about Syria's continuous support for the Iraqi people.

Regarding the Iraq-Iran war, the leaders of the National and Patriotic Democratic Front were unanimous in denouncing this war considering Saddam Husayn as the person primarily responsible for it. Mas'ud Barzani said that this war is a war of imperialism, and that imperialism entrusted Saddam Husayn to wage it, especially since it provides great gains in the region to imperialist Israel.

He described Saddam's war as a U.S.-Israeli plot to destroy the potentials of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples — potentials that should have been added to the Arab nation's potentials to contribute to the fateful battle against Israel and Zionism.

On the Iraqi regime's role within the framework of current moves in the region to form a new alliance linked with Camp David and U.S. plots to liquidate the Palestine question, the Iraqi leaders denounced the current new steps to form the Amman-Cairo-Baghdad alliance. They stressed that Saddam's rule [words indistinct] in confronting the nationalist forces through throwing itself in the lap of imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary forces and their attempts to break the isolation of the Camp David plot and to justify the formation of a new treasonous step within the framework of the Camp David, whose basis will be the so-called Jordanian option in Amman.

They stressed that confronting the new plot necessitates the escalation of national struggle to foil the new U.S. plans, through allying with steadfast Syria, especially since it is the major nationalist center for confronting imperialism and Zionism and defending the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

The Iraqi leaders stressed their rejection of restoring relations with the Egyptian regime until the Camp David accords are canceled, and until Egypt returns to the trench of confronting Israel and its imperialist protectors.

AL-THAWRAH on Refusal To Give Israel 'Guarantees'

JN030735 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 3 Nov 84

[From the press review]

[Test] In an editorial today, *AL-THAWRAH* says: It is natural that Syria should refuse to give Israel any guarantees in exchange for its withdrawal from Lebanon and insist on a comprehensive, unconditional Zionist withdrawal from all Lebanese territories. This is because Israel is a usurper and aggressor. The whole world has accepted this fact and has called for implementing the UN resolutions concerning an immediate withdrawal of the Zionist forces not only from Lebanese territory, but also from all occupied Arab territories. Therefore, Israel has only two alternatives — either immediate withdrawal, or continued human and economic losses as a result of its occupation of Arab territories and the escalating resistance operations. Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said: We cannot accept on the Lebanese territory what we have rejected on the Syrian territory.

AL-THAWRAH pointed out that Lebanon is currently holding the initiative, especially since it has canceled the 17 May agreement and freed itself from its chains because this agreement rendered a political cover for the continuing occupation of southern Lebanon. Lebanon has the right to demand the unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli aggressors.

Concluding, *AL-THAWRAH* says: Syria, which has always supported Lebanon, will always back Lebanon's desire to liberate its territory from the Zionist occupation forces, realize national reconciliation, and build a unified state.

AL-BA'TH on Lebanese-Israeli Negotiations

JN050928 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 5 Nov 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Lebanon Will Achieve What It Wants, and Under Its Conditions" *AL-BA'TH* says: Comrade 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's visit to Beirut last Thursday, which took place at President Hafiz al-Asad's instructions to assist the brothers in reaching an agreement on common denominators for the attainment of the salvation march and for ending the Zionist occupation of the south, has achieved important results. We can say that this visit has achieved what everyone hoped would be achieved. The proof of its success is the reaffirmation by all parties on the need to abide by the contents of the national unity government's policy statement, particularly the implementation of the security plans in the remaining Lebanese areas to complete the imposition of the legitimate authorities' control over everyone without exception. The important thing is to liberate southern Lebanon from the Zionist occupier. To achieve this important pan-Arab and national objective, all the Lebanese parties reached agreement to hold negotiations within the framework of the armistice agreement with the Zionist enemy, and under UN supervision. Syria's stand on this matter is clear. The stands of all the Lebanese parties are also clear as they reaffirmed that these negotiations must be restricted to the military aspect only. This is what has been decided, not what trumpets of some renegade regimes in the Arab homeland are trying to depict. These trumpets seek to imply through their various organs that these negotiations are not restricted to the military aspect alone but go beyond it. Undoubtedly, the renegade regimes expected that the operation of negotiations with the Zionist enemy would start from Lebanon. These regimes have worked and continue to work for this objective. The proof of this is the arrangement of the 17 May agreement, blessed by all the regimes. When this agreement was foiled, thanks to the maturity and struggle of Lebanon and that of its valiant national resistance, campaigns were launched to cast doubt on the capability of Lebanon and its national government to extricate Lebanon from the crisis. Some have even wagered on continued Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon, despite the harsh reply by the Lebanese national unity government and the valiant national resistance.

AL-BA'TH adds: The national unity government, which comprises all the parties to the dispute, officially affirmed its rejection of any negotiations with the enemy outside the framework of the armistice agreements and the United Nations. This unswerving national stand has come as a result of the strong blows the Lebanese national resistance is dealing to the forces of occupation.

The renegade regimes also view the Lebanese national unity government's stand on the question of the Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon as being a harsh blow to all the steps that the Camp David regime in Egypt has undertaken, and to what the Jordanian, Iraqi, and Moroccan regimes are tyring to achieve, not to mention the attempts by Yasir 'Arafat whose conspiracy against Lebanon and the Palestinian cause has been exposed since the beginning of the invasion.

AL-BA'TH concludes: In any case, it is certain that the Lebanon crisis will end in a manner that will serve Lebanon's aspirations. The Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon will also end with the conditions Lebanon wants and not as the renegade regimes want.

AL-THAWRAH on Egyptian-U.S. Maneuvers

JN060950 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 6 Nov 84

[From the press review]

[Text] *AL-THAWRAH* says: Regardless of the pretexts the Egyptian regime and the United States put forth to justify the joint military maneuvers which began on Egyptian soil yesterday under the code-name "Sea Winds", they cannot justify these maneuvers or conceal the threat they pose to the security of Egypt, its people, Armed Forces, Egyptian will, and the independence of the Egyptian Army. A preliminary explanation of these maneuvers, in view of Camp David's continued control over Egypt, is that these maneuvers constitute a clear U.S. step that bolsters the trend of Camp David in Egypt and its ramifications elsewhere. If this explanation points to the fact that Camp David still exists in Egypt and that its contagion and consequences continue to spread in other parts of this region as well, what is more serious than these maneuvers themselves is the fact that they are taking place on Egyptian soil and in cooperation with the Egyptian Armed Forces. Because these maneuvers are taking place with the United States, they are being held with a party hostile to the Arab nation and to its just causes, and Egypt is part of this nation. This fact also shows that weakening the Egyptian Army, harming the Egyptian Armed Forces, and trying to tarnish the Egyptian military honor constitute the basis of the "Sea Winds" maneuvers.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The current Egyptian military state of affairs is the result of the Camp David conspiracy. The Camp David conspiracy resulted in the plan to dismiss thousands of officers, weaken the Egyptian Army's human and material capabilities, and leak its security secrets whether through military maneuvers or joint coordination. All this highlights the fact that Camp David is no more than a conspiracy which aims to chain Egypt, cancel the role of its Army, and transform this Army into an army for the regime after it had been an army for the people and the entire Arab nation.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: If some politicians without willpower in Egypt have twisted logic, what is required is that this must not take place within the ranks of the Egyptian Armed Forces. The Arab nation has high hopes that a day will come when the Armed Forces return Egypt's true Arab face, regain their military role in the pan-Arab confrontation of the Zionist invasion, liberate themselves from the shackles and restrictions of Camp David, and eliminate the conspiracies and any other forms behind which the Arab nation's enemies try to hide and through which they seek to move.

Negotiations With Lebanon To Begin 8 Nov

TA051639 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Today Israel confirmed the new date set for the Al-Naqurah talks — this Thursday [8 November]. Our political correspondent reports that at the talks held this afternoon between Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche and Jean-Claude Aime, a UN Secretariat deputy, it was decided that the military teams of Lebanon and Israel will meet in Al-Naqurah on 8 November at 1000 to begin negotiations on an arrangement in southern Lebanon.

At UNIFIL Headquarters in Al-Naqurah, preparations for the opening of the talks on Thursday have been completed. Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, reports that consultation rooms and space for the dozens of correspondents who will come to cover the event have been prepared.

Rabin Rejects Fixed Duration

TA051825 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has rejected opposition demands for an immediate withdrawal from Lebanon or an announcement of a fixed period of time for negotiations. He said the government is determined to exhaust the path of direct negotiations with Lebanon and indirect negotiations with other elements so that we can obtain security arrangements.

The solution, Rabin said, is not in our pockets and we will have to insist on the terms we have set for ourselves in the negotiations. The hope held out by negotiations must be exhausted, since the combination of political and military solutions can guarantee reasonable security and the IDF's return.

He said the UNIFIL and the army of southern Lebanon [ASL] would be incorporated in any arrangement. If the ASL does not succeed in preventing terrorists from organizing, the IDF will retain the right to act in the area in self-defense.

Knesset Member [MK] Victor Shem-Tov, the first to broach the issue on the agenda, said several of Rabin's statements and actions indicated a new opening and government willingness to bring the nation back to reality. However, he emphasized that the time allotted for negotiations should be restricted to weeks.

Yosi Sarid also welcomed the new style, but said that the Alignment is now doing everything it objected to doing before the election. He called for unilateral arrangements.

Me'ir Wilner said there is only one solution — comprehensive peace.

After the defense minister's remarks, Sarid's and Shem-Tov's proposals were transferred to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Wilner's proposal was struck from the agenda.

First Meeting Procedural

TA052001 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] The first meeting of the Israeli and Lebanese delegations in Al-Naqurah on Thursday will apparently be devoted mainly to matters of procedure. Security sources have told our military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky that only at the end of the first meeting will it be possible to evaluate the seriousness of Lebanese intentions. The Israeli delegation would prefer to deal first with less complicated matters in order to leave disputed problems, such as the role of the army of southern Lebanon, for the final stage.

Practicality Urged

TA061132 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 6 Nov 84 p 1

[Text] Israel has clarified to Lebanon that it wants to start dealing with practical issues in the first meeting to be held this Thursday between the Israeli and Lebanese officers in Al-Naqurah. Israel seeks to avoid involvement in procedural issues and has suggested to the Lebanese that at this meeting the positions of the two sides be presented and the agenda for the future meetings be set.

Murphy: Syria Viewing Talks

TA061232 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 6 Nov 84

[Text] Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy today told Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that while in Damascus he heard that the Syrians are interested in the negotiations between Israeli and Lebanese officers which are scheduled to open by the weekend. Murphy will remain in the region and will travel between Damascus and Jerusalem in order to try to extract a clarification of positions regarding Lebanon. On his meetings in Jordan, Murphy said that Husayn is awaiting the convening of the PNC, and until that time there will be no change in his position regarding the continuation of the peace process.

The defense minister informed his guest that he had turned down the request made yesterday by Knesset Members Muhammad Mi'ari and Matityahu Peled to allow 150 residents of Judaea and Samaria to participate in the PNC in Jordan.

South Lebanese Christians Ask Not To Be Abandoned

TA060906 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0832 GMT 6 Nov 84

[Text] Residents of southern Lebanon, mostly Christians, started circulating a petition this morning, calling on Israel not to abandon them following the withdrawal of the IDF from southern Lebanon. The heads of civilian committees met with IDF officers on this matter, and asked them to especially take care of the Christian inhabitants of Jazzin and the Al-Kharrub region. This was reported by our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz.

Peres Signs Package Deal; Makes Statement

TA051616 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1537 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Statement by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres following a ceremony to sign the economic package deal in the prime minister's office in Jerusalem — live]

[Text] As you know, this afternoon we signed an agreement or what is called a package deal: The finance minister signed in the name of the Israeli Government; the Histadrut secretary general signed in the name of the Histadrut; and the chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of Economic Organizations signed in its name.

The three signatories made the validity of the agreement dependent on the agreement of the institutions they represent. I was very happy to learn that on Saturday evening the Histadrut unanimously approved the agreement and authorized the Histadrut secretary general to sign it. I was very happy to hear that the Coordinating Bureau of Economic Organizations also, it seems to me, unanimously approved it and authorized its chairman to sign. The Cabinet, at its Sunday session, also voted unanimously, although there were several ministers who did not abstain, but did not take part in the voting. [sentence as heard]

Therefore, this deal was given the seal of approval by all the institutions, by all the people who initialled it on Friday, and now we are signing in the name of the three components: the government, the Histadrut, and the Coordinating Bureau of Economic Organizations. I want to say that this is a very difficult deal for each one of the three components. I have a great deal of respect for the Cabinet, the Histadrut, and the Coordinating Bureau of Economic Organizations, which took upon themselves the most difficult things, of their own free will, for the next 3 months, in order to save the economy. Such a deal, or such an agreement, has never before been signed in Israel.

I appeal to the entire public, to all of you, to the media, to lend a helping hand so that this national agreement, which has been signed willingly but out of a genuine economic necessity, will be a success. Our economy is in a very serious position. No one can save us but ourselves; only we can save ourselves from the situation that has been created. This is a serious, personal appeal: The public, the institutions, the people's representatives, the media, the citizens must lend a helping hand so that prices do not run wild, so that we will be able to return to a stable economic situation, so that the economy can again grow and ensure a bright future for every one of us. These are 3 months of serious testing, which must be dealt with seriously. We must see the achievement, the challenge, and the test in this, and meet it as a nation in a difficult situation should meet it and as a nation that can meet it.

Moda'i Comments

TA051644 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1543 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Statement by Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i following ceremony to sign the economic package deal at the prime minister's office in Jerusalem — live]

[Text] This agreement is not only the first of its kind in Israel; I would venture to say it is unique in the world, in the sense that all components and sectors of the economy freely agreed to a balanced compromise — this means the government, the Histadrut, and the employers.

It was clear to all of us that without the signatures on the package agreement, each one of the signatories, in other words, all citizens of Israel, would have been very seriously harmed. It was this pressure that led us to an agreement which will be very hard to keep but which, we hope, will make it possible for us to return to the right path. Each side, however, must do its share for a specific period of time. After that period of time, the free play of the economy and the market will have to take responsibility for its balance.

'Secret' Details Reported

TA041620 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Nov 84 p 1

[Text] Following is the aide memoire signed last Friday by representatives of the government, the Histadrut, and the manufacturers. So far the agreement has only been initialed; it will receive legal status after its ratification by the government, the Histadrut, and the manufacturers, after which it will be signed.

The agreement will be in effect from 5 November 1984 to 5 February 1985.

— Prices of commodities, services, and wages will be frozen. Profits and taxes will not be raised.

— As for the cost of living increment scheduled to be paid on 1 December, the workers will be paid two-thirds and will absorb one-third; the employers will absorb two-thirds of the increment.

— As for the cost of living increment scheduled to be paid on 1 January — assuming that it does not exceed 15 percent — the employers will absorb 10 percent and the workers 5 percent.

— Low-income wage earners and pensioners will be compensated by the government in a way to be decided.

— As of February 1985 and for a duration of 3 months the workers will receive a 5 percent exemption on income taxes.

— Dividends for Israeli citizens will be frozen for 3 months.

— A plan will be prepared to combat underground capital and to increase taxation.

— Profits from exports will be preserved and the government will immediately carry out the payments according to the formula and level stipulated for 1984-85 by the Treasury, the industry and trade ministry, the Bank of Israel, and the employers.

— The level of export and interest rate financing will be updated for 1 December 1984.

— The government will carry out a general reform of taxation, in the framework of which income taxes will be lowered. This is also to include the workers. There will be negotiations with the sides to this agreement.

— The government promises full employment, and necessary steps will be taken to prevent unemployment. The Histadrut and the employers will be partners in implementing this policy.

— A follow-up committee will be set up to monitor the implementation of the agreement, and it will also plan the steps that will be necessary for the period after the agreement ends.

— The sides will work jointly to encourage productivity.

— The self-employed as well as the workers will have to carry the load, according to the agreement.

[Tel Aviv *YEDI'OT AHARONOT* in Hebrew on 4 November carries on page 3 what it calls "the full version of the economic agreement" which adds the following: "The representatives of the sides will complete this agreement in an agreed upon manner following ratification by their institutions. The sides agree that the government will control the price freeze and will issue the required orders stemming from this agreement"]

The Secret Appendix to the Package Deal

The following is the secret part of the package deal:

1. The rate of exchange will be adjusted to the price index as of the beginning of the agreement. It has been agreed that the real interest rate will be 1 percent by the end of the 3 months.

2. The government will thaw the freeze on its transactions together and in coordination with its budget cut.

3. In the 1st week of the package deal, the interest rate in the economy will be 16 percent, and as of the 3d week, 15 percent, including allocation fees in the framework of approved credit quotas.

Wage, Price Freeze Implemented in Territories

TA051309 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] The freeze on wages and prices went into effect in the administered territories this morning. It is being implemented parallel to the package deal agreement in Israel. Jerry Cheslow reports.

[Begin recording][Cheslow] Along with the freeze of the shekel's purchasing power in relation to the dollar, it is also frozen in relation to the Jordanian dinar, which is legal tender on the West Bank. The dinar rate is 1,301.6 shekels. This morning, the civil government officer in charge of trade briefed the Chambers of Commerce and the local trade officials on the freeze, and how it will be enforced. For the first time, merchants in Arab towns and villages will be forced to post prices. The same stiff penalties apply for violations of the freeze as do in Israel. Bethlehem's Mayor Ilyas Frayj, who also heads his town's Chamber of Commerce, said the residents welcome the freeze.

[Frayj] The price freeze will be welcomed and respected by the people, if it can lead to a decline in the inflation. The West Bank is a market for the consumption of Israeli goods and services. So, if prices are actually frozen in Israel, they are transferred to the West Bank. But the merchants will comply. [end recording]

The civil administration has set up six points to receive complaints from the public and ensure that those merchants comply with the freeze.

Official Named for Free Trade Zone Talks

TA060615 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 6 Nov 84

[Text] The director general of the Justice Ministry has left for Washington. Me'ir Gabay will head the Israeli legal team negotiating the final details of the free trade zone agreement with the United States. Both sides believe that discussions will be wrapped up in this negotiating session.

Ambassador Lewis' Remarks on Reagan Plan Analyzed

TA051536 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Nov 84 p 7

['Aqiva Eldar commentary: "Will Reagan Learn From Lewis?"]

[Text] Senior Foreign Ministry officials in Jerusalem were not surprised at Ambassador Samuel Lewis' remarks. At least two of them told me they had heard his opinion of the timing and tactics of the Reagan plan in private conversations. Lewis was not making offhand comments. He had small pages with chapter headings in front of him. Diplomats like Lewis do not make such verbal faux pas. As long as 4 months ago the ambassador told the heads of the Dayan Center (Shilo'ah Institute) he would address the "6 Years Since Camp David" seminar. He prepared the lecture for the closed forum of the academic center. Last week, apparently after his aides had noticed the posters inviting the public to the seminar, the ambassador spoke with Professor Itamar Rabinowitz. At the talk, it was explained to him that the seminar would be open to the public (and, of course, to the media). Nevertheless, Ambassador Lewis said what he felt while facing the television cameras and the notebooks of the journalists who were sitting in the front row of the Bar Shira auditorium of Tel Aviv University.

Lewis did not pick that auditorium as a stage for a public act of suicide. Only 2 weeks ago he rushed to deny reports of his intention to end his term as ambassador to Israel in the very near future. Now he cannot deny the sentence about "terrible timing, and abysmal tactics, which led to zero results." Too many ears heard the words and dozens of hands applauded them.

As is the custom in the U.S. Administration, ambassadors submit their resignations to the new president (even if he is a president who has been elected for a second term). Lewis is serving in Israel in accordance with a special contract because he was due to retire more than a year ago. For several months now he has been telling those close to him that he intends to retire and enter the business world in the summer of 1985. It may be that this time Lewis' letter of resignation will be "genuine" and we will soon be told about the arrival of a new ambassador from Washington next summer.

It is doubtful whether statements of support by Secretary of State George Shultz for the "talented ambassador" will take away the sour taste the lecture left in the U.S. capital. It is difficult to say that Lewis chose the right occasion to remind his President of the failure of the plan bearing his name. When an ambassador who was chosen by a Democratic President (Jimmy Carter) speaks about the "zero results" the Republican President's plan led to, perhaps it is not terrible. When he does this 7 days before that same President is running for election, it is not pleasant, and Lewis knows this and regrets it.

President Reagan, and, like him, Secretary of State George Shultz and National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, have recently repeated the statements of support for the President's plan for the Middle East. Shim'on Peres heard this directly from the President during his visit to the U.S. capital. In Washington, as in Jerusalem, it is believed that the President will give the kiss of life to his program, perhaps in slightly different garb, not long after he wins (if he does win) the election.

The name Lewis will not be one that is synonymous with the Reagan plan. The controversial sentence that concluded the lecture blurred its main message: How peace can be obtained in the Middle East. The remarks about the Reagan plan's tactics and timing were intended purely to emphasize the advantages of the Camp David tactics and timing.

Lewis, who has accompanied the Camp David process from the beginning, attributed its success to the task of persuasion with which the U.S. diplomats in the area were entrusted. He believes that direct negotiations should not be imposed on Israel and its neighbors. Face plays an important role in this area, and when the sides sit facing each other at the negotiating table for direct talks, it does not end well. Only a mediator who understands the cultural gap can achieve compromises and reach the stage of "slaughtering the lamb."

Lewis spoke of the 3 years he spent explaining Egyptian sensitivities to Jerusalem decisionmakers. His colleague, who was serving in Cairo, worked hard there at the same time to explain Israeli sensitivities. This was the only way, in his view, to make progress in the peace process. The last word of the lecture was "carrot." After 7 busy years in Israel, Lewis does not believe in sticks. Had President Reagan listened to Lewis' advice before launching his program in September 1982, he might have saved himself yet another foreign policy failure. The ambassador in Tel Aviv then learned at first hand the results of the direct approach: At the height of the fighting in Lebanon, Menahem Begin sent him back to the President with a declaration of intentions whose main point was "We will not accept the program even if the nation has to live on bread and water."

Reagan, as far as can be seen, is going to win a second term in office. During his last 4 years in the White House he will not have to be frightened of the Jewish lobby. Nor will Lewis, who won the title of "high commissioner" here, be at his side. Almost all observers agree that the principles of the Reagan plan will guide U.S. policy in the area. From remarks the President made to Shim'on Peres we can learn that he wants to try again the efficacy of the stick. Reagan has announced his intention to supply arms to Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Perhaps this is a preparation for a renewed attempt to impose his initiative. Peres and his colleagues, the Alignment ministers, need a great deal of patience to push Sharon and his Likud colleagues toward a compromise with Jordan. It seems that Lewis' remarks fell on a President's ears that are not sufficiently open to sensitive nuances in foreign relations, particularly in this complicated area.

Majority of Public Would Prefer Reagan Victory

TA051428 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Nov 84 p 1

["Exclusive" PORI poll]

[Text] The majority of the public believes that from the point of view of Israel's interests it would be preferable for Ronald Reagan to win the U.S. presidential election.

The question asked was: Which is better for Israel, for Ronald Reagan, the Republican Party's candidate, to win the presidential election, or for Walter Mondale, the Democratic Party's candidate, to win?" 49 percent answered that it would be better for Reagan to win, compared with 14 percent who think that it would be better for Mondale to win.

Another 14 percent said that both candidates were equally "good for Israel," compared with 2 percent who said that both candidates were "terrible for Israel." The other 21 percent of those questioned said they "do not know" which of the two candidates is preferable from the point of view of Israel's interests.

The poll, which was conducted last week, covered a representative nationwide sample of 1,200 men and women, who were individually interviewed.

Arabic Broadcast on Amman Palestinian Embezzlement

JN041813 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World
1530 GMT 4 Nov 84

[Ibrahim Shahid recorded dispatch carried within "With the Events" program]

[Text] An informed person who came from Amman this evening across Allenby Bridge has told me that people are talking about financial embezzlements that have recently taken place in Palestinian institutions there. He added that secret investigations of some persons suspected of having connections with these embezzlements have begun in Amman. Jordanian authorities are expected to summon some persons from the West Bank and Gaza for further investigations.

The 26 October issue of the Paris-based magazine *AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI* dealt with embezzlement in Palestinian institutions which send funds to some institutions in the West Bank and Gaza. The magazine published names, documented with evidence, regarding some of these embezzlements. We will provide you with details within a few days.

Arabic Broadcast on Jordan's Stand Toward U.S.

JN051803 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World
1435 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: Jordanian media and Jordanian Officials are saying that the United States has lost its impartiality, that it has become biased toward Israel, and that it no longer qualifies as a neutral mediator for settling the Arab-Israeli conflict. They also say that the Americans themselves have created a gap between the Arab countries and the United States; that Washington supported Israel in rejecting the proposal for an international conference; and that the United States is in a strategic alliance with Israel. This tone is repeated by information officials in Jordan. These officials consider economic and military support for Israel as evidence that the U.S. role in the region is hostile to the Arab people and their issues. Thus, the Jordanian officials and media spokesmen conclude that peace proposed by the United States is an Israeli peace, and that it can only be described and explained as capitulation and an attempt to subjugate the Arabs by threat and force.

We do not intend to substitute for the United States in defending its policy, and we cannot deny Jordan's right to disagree with or discuss U.S. policy. However, we cannot ignore the trend which is hostile to peace and which appears in Jordanian statements. Where is the bias toward Israel and against the Arabs in the proposals and suggestions made in U.S. mediation? Where are the Israeli interests which the United States served at the expense of the Arabs? Perhaps the U.S. efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict are the only ones which entered the stage of action and implementation within the process of making peace between Egypt and Israel. The U.S. role was prominent and effective in the long and exhausting talks. Can anybody indicate one single gain which Israel achieved at the expense of Egypt in the U.S. mediation? Is the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement unfair to Egypt? Were the results which the United States helped to achieve and implement not in the interests of Egypt and the Arabs? Has Egypt committed a grave historic mistake by regaining Sinai, with its oil fields and civilian and military installations?

It is true that there is a traditional and strong friendship between the United States and the State of Israel. It is true that the people of the United States and Israel have many common values, concepts, and ideals. It is also true that the United States leads those countries which help Israel and support it in reconstruction, development, and maintaining itself. However, the United States does not adopt this stand at the expense of the Arab countries or in contradiction to the principles of a just and firm peace in the region. The opposite is true.

Jordan and others have the right to discuss proposals by the United States and others, and to make counter proposals. However, neither this meeting of U.S. proposals with rejection and hostility because the United States has relations of friendship and cooperation with Israel — relations which are similar to its relations with many Arab countries — nor this hostile extremism of disqualifying the United States as a mediator can be discussed fairly and freely, because Jordan wants the United States to abandon Israel and to stand at the Arabs' side so that the United States will regain its respect and be accepted by Jordan.

This biased stand was adopted by the USSR. What was the result? We do not need to mention all of the negative consequences which resulted from Soviet bias in the region. Nobody in Jordan or elsewhere can say that the Soviet stand benefited the region or that peace was served through their bias.

Navon, Basyuni Discuss Bilateral Relations

TA051431 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Nov 84 p 3

[Text] Yitzhaq Navon, deputy prime minister and minister of education and culture, has met with Mr Muhammad Basyuni, the Egyptian Embassy's charge d'affairs in Israel, in his Jerusalem office. Navon and Basyuni discussed developments in bilateral relations, and also exchanged views on the problem of Lebanon and Tabah in the Sinai.

At the end of the meeting, Navon and Basyuni expressed their joint hope that when Israeli-Egyptian relations improve, educational and cultural relations would also be renewed. It has been reported that the meeting lasted more than an hour and was held in a friendly atmosphere.

Pressure for Tabah Arbitration Reported

TA061327 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Nov 84 p 11

[Yosef Walter report]

[Text] The U.S. Administration favors Egypt's demand for arbitration on the matter of Tabah, which would result in a binding decision on both sides.

Security sources told *MA'ARIV* the United States has recently been putting indirect pressure on Israel to agree to arbitration. The issue has been raised frequently on various occasions at meetings held between Israeli figures and U.S. Administration officials.

For the time being the Israeli Government has not discussed Tabah, something that leaves the previous government's position intact, and the issue is still frozen. According to the Camp David agreement, the Tabah dispute can be settled in three stages: direct negotiations at the level of foreign ministers or prime minister-president, to be held in both capitals. If this does not produce results, the second stage involves conciliation. The third stage is arbitration, which could be done if the first two stages fail.

Rabin Will Not Advance Opening of University

TA051013 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0945 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin declared that there is no intention to advance the date set for opening the Al-Najah University in Nabulus. He also rejected a request to enable a group of Judaea and Samaria residents to leave for a PNC meeting in Jordan. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that Rabin talked today with Knesset Members Mati Peled and Muhammad Mi'ari from the Progressive List for Peace.

In answer to requests they submitted to him, Rabin said that the Al-Najah University will reopen only at the end of this month, after a 4-month closure. The university was closed following the discovery of booklets containing instructions for the preparation of bombs on the premises, and after determining that offices representing terrorist organizations were active on the campus. The defense minister presented the Knesset members with documents pertaining to this.

As for rejecting the departure of residents for the PNC, Rabin said the government views the PLO as a terrorist organization and cannot allow Judaea and Samaria inhabitants to participate in meetings intended to promote the cause of this organization. Rabin noted that the terrorist organizations are continuing to compete with one another in their anti-Israel declarations and terrorist acts.

Levi: West Bank Construction not Frozen

TA040548 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Nov 84

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Construction and Housing Minister David Levi says he has concluded with the prime minister and finance minister that public construction projects will not be frozen. According to the agreement, Project Renewal — which is the program to rehabilitate poor neighborhoods — will not be affected, and construction will continue in all regions, including Judaea and Samaria.

Bar-Lev Rejects Repressive West Bank Policy

TA021734 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Nov 84 p 20

[Interview with Police Minister Hayim Bar-Lev by Ya'aqov Ha'elyon — date and place not given]

[Excerpt] Question: Do you see the creation of two diametrically divergent camps: one supporting a light hand in Judaea and Samaria; the other maintaining that it is precisely this lenient policy that is responsible for what is happening now on the roads of Judaea and Samaria?

Answer: The present situation is not the result of a light hand. You cannot accuse the Likud of maintaining such a policy. The present situation is the result of a policy of unnecessary friction. We all remember days in which we could enter Nabulus' casbah without police or border police escort and without any danger.

I have crossed the West Bank three times on horseback. I have slept in Arab villages. The last time, however, last Passover, I did not enter the villages. When we reached a big village we bypassed it. Believe me, these riders are no cowards; bullets whistled past their ears many times. The deterioration was caused by the policy of maximum friction. Talks and questions about whether Jews can live there or not will not help. The question is whether it is wise and right to implement all the rights today and in all places. I do not deny that a Jew is entitled to live in Hebron or in Nabulus, but doing it without an arrangement or an agreement is unwise. It deepens the hostility, and extremist Arab factors will not accept it. The children throw stones and the adults hurl hand grenades.

Question: Nevertheless, we repeatedly hear the claim that the "too light a hand" encourages hostile acts against Jews in Judaea and Samaria, and that it causes frustration which brings about acts by Jewish extremists.

Answer: Do you think that if you demolish houses tomorrow you will solve the problem? Or that if you discover every terrorist or execute every Arab who sheds blood you will thereby solve the problem? These primitives think that this is the way! I ask them to show me one place in the world where problems have been solved in such a way.

Question: However, in the past, reactions were stronger?

Answer: People forget that in the seventies the Alignment was in power and I happened to be the chief of staff. They say: The heavy hand in the seventies took care of the matter. Let nobody try to teach me what happened then. It is true that we reacted firmly, but we tried to achieve minimal friction. We did not say: Let us settle in Hebron. A heavy-handed policy together with wise policy produces results. No heavy hand will produce calm when the policy itself causes friction.

Question: Nevertheless, this week three Jews were wounded near the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp and near the village of Si'ir, and later there were stonethrowing incidents in Bethlehem. Jews cannot travel safely on the roads....

Answer: Responsibility for policy in the territories belongs to the Defense Ministry, and it should be to prevent disturbances and artificial friction.

Question: You actually reject the demand made in the Knesset by Knesset member Refa'el Eytan to implement expulsion orders and close universities?

Answer: Certainly! Is this what will take care of matters?

Question: The method, therefore, is a curfew?

Answer: The way to avoid friction is to settle along the Jordan valley, where there are no Arabs, not in the heart of Hebron and above Nabulus.

Question: Nevertheless the fact remains that today Jews live in all parts of Judaea and Samaria. How can you ensure that they will not be hurt?

Answer: We must make certain that the roads remain clear.

Question: But the roads are not clear.

Answer: Exerting pressure, even executions, will not solve the problem. Only primitive people believe that you can solve the problem in one swoop.

Question: In the seventies the Alignment maintained this same primitive method: You demolished houses; you expelled people.

Answer: No. In the seventies we avoided the creation of friction. Even when the government decided to settle in Hebron, it was not within populated areas, but on a rocky hill nearby, and today you can argue whether or not this was wise. Now when there are disturbances the security forces handle them. It is impossible to demolish houses today, because the world will not allow us to do that. Then it was possible.

Question: What about expulsion?

Answer: This is mostly impossible.

Bombs Damage Business of Bethlehem Mayor Frayj

TA040938 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Nov 84 p 2

[Text] Bethlehem — Two petrol bombs tossed at the shop owned by Mayor Ilyas Frayj on Friday destroyed most of the shop and caused 20,000 dinars (about $50,000) damage, Frayj said last night. No one was injured.

The attack Friday was the second in two days against Frayj's shop here. On Thursday night unidentified men threw two bombs at the mayor's shop and at another shop in the same area of Bethlehem, but there was no damage in this attack.

Frayj said his son Rajih was alone in the shop when two men in their 20s tossed the bomb at about 5:45 pm Friday. Rajih Frayj ran out of the shop and chased the attackers for some 20 metres, but was unable to catch them, the mayor said. His son then returned to the shop and tried to extinguish the fire but most the merchandise was destroyed in the blaze.

Frayj called the attack "an act of cowardice" and an attempt to "assassinate the freedom of political thinking." Such attacks, he said, "will have detrimental effects of the unity of the Arab people in the West Bank and Gaza."

He added that rock-throwing on the highway to Bethlehem and bombing shops in the town would seriously hurt tourism, Bethlehem's main source of income.

The mayor said he informed all branches of the security forces immediately after the attack.

Exiled West Bank Mayor Replaced 4 Nov

TA050941 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Nov 84 p 2

[Text] Halhul (ITIM) — The Halhul Local Council yesterday sacked Mayor Muhammad Milhim, who was deported to Jordan four years ago. Despite his being in exile, the council of this town in the Hebron Hills had continued to recognize Milhim as mayor. The Council claims to have now discovered that Milhim had embezzled Council funds deposited in the Arab Bank of Jordan.

Milhim was deported with Hebron mayor Fahd al-Qawasimi after the killing of six yeshiva students at Bet Hadassah in Hebron.

Hasan Hijazi was elected the new mayor.

UNRWA Official Closes West Bank College

TA041721 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Nov 84

[Text] The director of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees [UNRWA] in Judaea and Samaria, Robert Gallagher, today closed the Al-Tira teachers training college in Al-Birah for a week, because of breaches of the peace. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the institution's students have been throwing stones at Israeli vehicles for several days now. Today the security forces went to the college and threatened to close it for a month if these acts did not stop.

Al-Duhayshah Arson Result of Factional Rivalry

TA021653 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1610 GMT 2 Nov 84

[Text] Bethlehem, 2 Nov (ITIM) — An office providing services for reporters, owned by Al-Duhayshah refugee camp inhabitant (Jawdat Hasan Mana'), was set on fire early this morning.

ITIM reports that the man was known to be a fervent Communist, and it is believed that those who burned his office are his opponents, Muslim Brotherhood members also from Al-Duhayshah.

About 3 weeks ago a bitter conflict erupted in the camp between two rival facitons — the Communists and the Muslim Brotherhood. It led to a brawl, in the course of which Molotov cocktails were thrown by both sides. Some people were hurt and the police detained for interrogation some of the people involved.

A long-standing rivalry exists in Al-Duhayshah between a group of Communist inhabitants and another group, which includes Muslim Brotherhood followers.

Groups Demonstrate Near Al-Duhayshah Camp

TA051508 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Nov 84 p 3

[Excerpt] Members of the Committee for Solidarity With Bi'r Zayt have been holding protest vigils opposite Rabbi Levinger at the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp south of Bethlehem. Security forces are maintaining order and preventing clashes between the settlers [supporters who have joined Levinger] and the solidarity committee's demonstrators.

A representative of the Committee for Solidarity With Bi'r Zayt said last night his colleagues had set up this vigil to prevent provocation by the settlers and Rabbi Levinger, who are demonstrating there. A spokesman for the There Is a Limit Movement, Naftali Or-Ner, reported yeseterday that he had also visited Al-Duhayshah and, according to him, had seen a car belonging to the settlers enter the camp driving fast and dangerously in order to provoke the inhabitants. Yesterday a group of about 30 Arab women also tried to hold a sit-down strike at the camp. The security forces ordered all the demonstrators on the spot to disperse. Most of the demonstrators did indeed disperse, but later a group of settlers returned to the site and members of the solidarity committee said they would resume their demonstration there tomorrow morning.

Restrictions Imposed on West Bank Journalist

TA051258 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Travel restrictions have been reimposed on Ramallah journalist Raymonda al-Tawil, 2 weeks after they were lifted. She was informed by the military authorities this morning that she may not leave Israel or the territories. No reason was given. Raymonda al-Tawil was scheduled to leave for Rome tomorrow morning.

Eban Blamed

TA052013 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Raymonda al-Tawil has blamed Knesset Member [MK] Abba Eban for ruining her planned trip abroad. Ms al-Tawil was informed today that the authorities have prohibited her from traveling to Europe, and she told our correspondent Gil Sadan that, in her opinion, the ban was an act of revenge by MK Abba Eban. She said she had been interviewed on Saturday by French television with MK Abba Eban. The interview was recorded in Jerusalem, but Mr Eban left while the filming was still going on, as a protest to what she said and how she said it. In reaction, MK Eban said this was an absurd claim and that he knew nothing at all about the ban the authorities imposed on Ms al-Tawil against traveling abroad. Security sources have told our correspondent that the order banning departure was issued because Ms al-Tawil could well deal with activity abroad that, in their opinion, involves a security risk to Israel.

Bethlehem University Reopens; Unrest Renewed

TA050802 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0742 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Our corresondent Arye Gus reports that students at Bethlehem University are throwing stones again. The students began throwing stones at the main entrance to Bethlehem this morning. A Border Police force arrived at the site, removed a roadblock, and directed the traffic to bypassing roads.

Classes resumed at Bethlehem University this morning following a 4-day closure by order of the military authorities.

Muslim Council Calls For East Jerusalem Strike

TA060543 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2100 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] The Supreme Muslim Council in East Jerusalem has called upon the inhabitants of the territories to hold a general strike on Saturday to protest what is termed a blow dealt the Al-Aqsa Mosque by the authorities and the Border Police. The Muslim Council says that despite all its demands, the Israeli flag and the portrait of the Israeli president have not been removed from the police station on the Temple Mount. The Council also claims that members of the Border Police are disturbing the worshippers in the mosque and desecrating the holy site.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the Council is demanding that the Border Police be removed from the Temple Mount and that a Muslim police officer be appointed commander of the police station at the site.

NAHAL Inaugurates 2 West Bank Settlements

TA060741 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
6 Nov 84 p 3

[Report by defense correspondent Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv — NAHAL formally will inaugurate two settlements in the West Bank and two in the Negev next week but its plans to establish four more settlements in the current fiscal year have been shelved for lack of funds, a well-placed NAHAL source told *THE JERUSALEM POST* yesterday.

Soldiers have already moved into the four sites, whose inauguration next Monday and Tuesday will mark the corps' anniversary. They are Rotem in the Jordan Valley, near Mehola, (Geva'ot) in Gush 'Ezyon, (Ye'elon) some 70 kilometres north of Elat, and (Amitay) in Pithat Shalom near Rafah.

Netherlands Denies Changing Mideast Policy

TA030534 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 3 Nov 84

[Text] Holland has told Israel that its Middle East policy has not changed. The Dutch denied that they have called for full Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories, as reported in Kuwait at the end of last month, after a visit by the Dutch premier.

Briefs

Soviet Emigration — Only 29 Jews were permitted to leave the Soviet Union last month, the lowest monthly figure since the Soviet authorities began allowing Jewish emigration, the Public Committee for Soviet Jewry reported yesterday. [Excerpt] [*Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Nov 84 p 3 TA*]

Police Ministry Appointment — Police Minister Hayim Bar-Lev has appointed Gad Aviner, a former IDF Intelligence Corps colonel, as director general of the ministry, a ministry spokesman announced yesterday. He will take up his new post in 10 days. [Text] [*Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Nov 84 p 3 TA*]

Energy Ministry Appointment — Natan Arad was appointed Energy Ministry Director General on 29 October. [Summary] [*Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Oct 84 TA*]

Foreign Debt Interest — The payment of interest on Israel's foreign debt will total $1.8 billion this year. Israel will pay this amount in the period from 1 July 1984 to the end of July 1985. This interest includes $1.4 billion, which is the government's debt, and $400 million, which is the net debt of the banking system. [Text] [*Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 30 Oct 84 TA*]

Briefs

Health Ministry Appointment — In its weekly meeting today the Cabinet appointed Prof Dan Mikha'eli as director general of the Health Ministry. Professor Mikha'eli is replacing Prof Barukh Modan. [Summary] [*Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 4 Nov 84 TA*]

October Unemployment — Statistics for unemployed and people receiving unemployment payments were basically unchanged last month compared with the previous month, but the number of people who were unemployed for 6 days or more increased considerably. From data issued by the Employment Service, it emerges that last month there were approximately 41,700 unemployed in Israel, and some 10,500 people received unemployment payments. Approximately 16,300 people were unemployed for 6 days and more, an increase of 2,000 over the September figures. The number of requests for workers decreased somewhat, but approximately 1,500 requests were not filled because of a lack of candidates. Some 3,100 people seeking work were not entitled to receive unemployment payments because they refused to work in jobs offered them. [Text] [*Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Nov 84 TA*]

Former CEAO Officials Questioned in Ouagadougou

AB031405 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 3 Nov 84

[Text] We learned from a well-informed source yesterday that the principal officials of the outgoing General Secretariat of the West African Economic Community, CEAO, have been questioned here in Ouagadougou. It will be recalled that during the CEAO summit in Bamako, Moussa Ngom and his assistants were strongly condemned for their mismanagement, which was crowned by a scandal in which over 6.4 billion CFA francs were pocketed by one Mohamed Diawara, a former Ivorian minister who is now an unscrupulous businessman. As soon as we have further information, we will brief you on this affair.

Further on 'Diawara Affair'

AB050715 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 4 Nov 84

[Excerpts] For a certain time now an odor of financial scandal has been floating around the West African Economic Community, CEAO. This scandal has come to be known as the Diawara affair. Things seem to be moving toward justice in the community. What exactly is the situation with the Diawara affair? Here is our colleague Jean-Hubert Bazie:

[Begin Bazie recording] It is all over now! The CEAO has made the move! The Ministry of Justice of Burkina Faso has confirmed that it has been directed by Captain Thomas Sankara, current chairman of the CEAO, to investigate the alleged financial scandal involving billions of CFA francs. The gendarmerie has also admitted that investigations into the embezzlement and other fraudulent practices at the CEAO has already begun.

Five persons have been called for questioning. They are the former secretary general of the CEAO, Moussa Ngom, and his assistant, Oumar Alpha Sy; the director of the Solidarity and Intervention Fund for the Development of the Community [Fosidec], Keita Bamoury, the accountant; the auditor, (Gueye Ngari); and our compatriot, Ouedraogo Inoussa Edgar, director of administrative and financial affairs.

These persons, who have been placed under house arrest, will be heard by the Technical Investigation Commission created by the last Council of Ministers, and will eventually answer charges preferred against them before competent courts in Burkina Faso, the headquarters of the community. This is in accordance with the decisions made by the Bamako summit conference of heads of state.

According to all the heads of state who met in Bamako, a thief is a thief and no amount of protests can change that. Thus armed with the full powers conferred on him by his colleagues, President Sankara ordered the investigation process to get at the truth in what has come to be called the 6 billion CFA francs affair or the Diawara affair, once the diplomatic immunity enjoyed by those concerned has been lifted.

It should be stressed, however, that the machinery which has been put into operation is not blind. Although there is no doubt that the guilty will answer for their actions, the innocent will have nothing to fear. It is even quite fair that they contribute to the search for the truth. Thus, while making it possible to render justice to the 35 million people of the community, which some unscrupulous people took for their den of thieves, their images will be enhanced at the end of this affair. The machine is in operation and there is no doubt that it will be able to sift the grain from the chaff.

Meanwhile, Mohamed Diawara, who allowed himself to be guided exclusively by the thirst for wealth and trampled the interests of his peoples — the community's interests — under his feet,is in safe hands in Ouagadougou waiting for the day when light will be shed on all the crimes of all the shady characters who lived at the expense of the sweat and blood of the CEAO. [end recording]

CIMAO Meeting Seeks To Reduce Costs

AB051858 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] A meeting of the board of directors of CIMAO [Cement Company of West Africa] is taking place in the Ivorian capital, Abidjan to discuss ways of reducing the cost of production which is more than double the cost of clinker on the world market. Ghana is represented at the meeting by the secretary for industries, science and technoligy, Dr Charles Boadu. He told newsmen before leaving Accra that the board will also discuss ways of servicing the project's debts which now stand at 10 billion CFA francs. It will also consider the participation of private cement companies in the Togo based project owned jointly by Ghana, Togo and Ivory Coast.

ALGERIA

Lebanese President Holds Talks, Departs

LD051522 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Excerpts] President of the Lebanese Republic Amin al-Jumayyil left Algiers this morning after the friendly and working visit he paid to our country. The Lebanese president was seen off at Houari Boumedienne International Airport by Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the party; members of the Political Bureau; and senior officials of the party and state. Prior to this President Amin al-Jumayyil and President Bendjedid listened to the national anthems of the two countries.

The Algerian-Lebanese political talks resumed this morning at the Presidency of the Republic with a private meeting between Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the party, and President Amin al-Jumayyil of Lebanon. The two presidents had already held their first round of private talks last night, after President Amin al-Jumayyil's arrival in Algiers.

Premier Returns After Talks With India's Gandhi

LD051308 Algiers APS in English 1011 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Algiers, 5/11/84 (APS) — Prime Minister Abdel Hamid Ibrahimi returned here yesterday from New Delhi, where he represented Algeria at the funeral of the late Indian prime minister, Indira Ghandi.

He held talks with newly designed Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on bilateral cooperation. This cooperation which has witnessed new impetus these past years comes within the framework of the demarche encouraged by both countries in a move to reinforce South-South cooperation. They examined also ways and means for Algeria and India to further the Nonaligned Movement. Mr Ibrahimi insisted on the determinant role of Indian leaders Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi for the strengthening of the Nonaligned Movement.

During his stay in New Delhi Mr Ibrahimi confered with his counterparts of Arab Yemen Republic, Finland, and Iran.

LIBYA

Al-Turayki Interview on Withdrawal From Chad

LD051510 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Excerpts] General Jeannou Lacaze, the chief of staff of the French Army, was to be received this morning in Ndjamena by Chadian President Hissein Habre, and it is perhaps the last time that the two men will meet each other as General Lacaze has in fact come to preside over the ceremonies marking the departure before next Friday of all French forces stationed in Chad for Operation Manta.

Concurrently with the French withdrawal further south, the Libyan troops are in the process of withdrawing. At the moment the French troops are striking their colors, it is interesting to know the opinion of the Libyan side. This is why we questioned the head of diplomacy of the Tripoli regime this morning by telephone. He asserts in response to questions put to him by Alain Chalveron that the withdrawal of the last Libyan soldiers stationed in northern Chad is imminent. Listen to Mr 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki:

[Begin recording] [Al-Turayki] The agreement, things are going very well. I think that from the point of view of order here, on both sides we are satisfied over the way in which this agreement has been carried out and I think that the withdrawal of the French troops and the Libyan elements of support have pulled out before the date fixed by the agreement.

[Chalveron] Yes, that is to say that you still have about 10 days left, because the date of expiry is in mid-November. So in any case between now and mid-November will all Libyan elements of support be pulled out?

[Al-Turayki] Certainly.

[Chalveron] How do you answer the Chadians when they express theirfear that in fact you have certainly pulled out the Libyan soldiers but at the same time are strengthening the Islamic Legion?

[Al-Turayki] Listen, this so-called Islamic Legion does not exist. It has never existed. [end recording]

Yes, in Ndjamena certain people in fact assert that black Libyans are going to stay in Chad territory — after Libya's official withdrawal — at the side of the GUNT forces. What does the head of Libyan diplomacy, 'Ali al-Turayki, think of this issue and many others? Back to the interview with Alain Chalveron:

[Begin recording] [Al-Turayki] I think that this allegation by the Habre group is made in order to justify an aggression, an attack against the GUNT. It is something we hope Habre will be aware of, because if he attacks the GUNT, the situation in Chad will deteriorate further.

[Chalveron] What you say is rather threatening to Hissein Habre. That is to say, if he is thinking about an attack on the GUNT forces, you will react, yourselves, the Libyans?

[Al-Turayki] We would not stay with our arms crossed, certainly.

[Chalveron] In other words, you [word indistinct] to intervene in Chad again?

[Al-Turayki] We hope not, but if Habre attacks, attacks us, especially if he attacks our frontier, we will be obliged to defend ourselves. [end recording]

Yes, the telephone link was not always very good as you heard, but we have heard Mr 'Ali al-Turayki telling us he would not remain with his arms crossed in the event of something happening. Mr 'Ali al-Turayki confirms furthermore that he met the

French Minister for External Relations Claude Cheysson in the last few days in Algiers who mentioned that in any case there are permanent contacts between Paris and Tripoli. We are satisfied, he ended, with the way in which France and Libya are cooperating at the moment.

Urges Sahara Referendum

LD051742 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Excerpt] With just a few days to go in the Addis Ababa OAU summit meeting, it was interesting to discover Libya's position on what will again no doubt be the key question of this meeting — that of the Western Sahara. The Libyan Government has just concluded a treaty of friendship with Morocco, no doubt involving a change of attitude on its part with regard to the Saharan conflict. Libyan minister of foreign affairs, 'Ali al-Turayki, spoke by telephone with Alain Chalveron:

[Begin recording][Al-Turayki] Our position is clear. We support the resolution of the 19th OAU summit; that is to say, we support the resolution which provides for a referendum on the Sahara and for the Saharan people to express themselves freely. I think it is most important that this resolution be carried out.

[Chalveron] Do you still favor the entry of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic into the OAU?

[Al-Turayki] I think it is most important for Africa to find a solution to the problems facing the Saharan people, in other words, to begin helping the two sides in conflict to accept the resolution and organize a referendum. [end recording]

Al-Turayki Receives OAU Official

LD052118 Tripoli JANA in English 1749 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Safar, 5 Nov, Jamahiryah News Agency — The secretary of the People's Committee for the Foreign Liaison Bureau ['Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki] met this morning Dr Peter Onu, acting secretary general of the Organization of African Unity, who is on a visit to Jamahiryah.

The two sides discussed a number of subjects of common interest including the items on the agenda of the 20th summit of the heads of state of the Organization of African Unity, the support of African liberation movements, Arab-African cooperation, the implementation of Lagos economic plan for Africa, the Sahara problem, and the latest developments in Chad.

During this meeting, Dr Peter Onu expressed the organization's appreciation of Jamahiriyah's efforts for security and stability in Chad and its desire to solve the African problems by Africans themselves. Furthermore, he praised the support and backing of Jamahiriyah to the African liberation movements saying that "the Jamahiriyah supports the African liberation movements added a new impetus to their struggle against the racist regimes in Africa." [sentence as received]

Dr Peter Onu thanked Jamahiriyah's support to the Organization of African Unity and said that "we highly appreciate the support and backing of Jamahiriyah to the organization and other African agencies making their task easier to fulfill."

Gandhi Death Part of U.S. Hegemony Chain

LD050445 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 4 Nov 84

[Unidentified political commentary on an *AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR* 5 November editorial]

[Text] Are the assassination of the Indian leader Indira Gandhi and fanning of sectarian sedition in India; U.S. military movements in the Mediterranean and the U.S. huge naval buildup in the Caribbean; and growth of the anti-Jamahiriyah campaign all separate incidents, or are they rings interlinked in a single chain? All these events and many more, cannot be considered separate because their aims are the same and those behind them are the same people, namely the United States.

The American octopus extends its countless arms from Nicaragua to India for the purpose of subjugating states which refuse to submit to its domination in this vast region which stretches from Central America to the Far East and the Pacific Ocean. This has made it necessary for the Reagan administration to increase the expenditure of the war department and the CIA by amounts which caused an uproar in and outside the United States because it deprived the poor people in the United States of their subsistance, and because the increase in spending is bound to increase world tension and spread disturbances to various parts of the world, as events confirm.

The assassination of the Indian leader Indira Gandhi was the climax of a CIA conspiracy. Since the beginning of this year, it never ceased spinning its web very carefully, fanning sectarian fanaticism and igniting the fire of sedition by manipulating some secessionist extremist Sikhs who, it is confirmed beyond any shadow of a doubt, are closely linked to reactionary American circles. This is for the purpose of dividing the Indian subcontinent into mini-states which can be easily controlled and for creating what is called the Khalistan Sikh State — the first step in the grand conspiratorial plot.

There is no doubt that the national and religious element is a mover of human history. The harmony of this element in the body of any state decides the extent of the stability of its society. However, there is a difference between this element acting on its own, and colonial foreign powers using extremist elements among some factions and minorities in some states to create disturbances in those states in order to assume control in the long run — as is happening in India. Reports confirm that the CIA, in collaboration with the British security services, set up a special fund of 10 million pounds sterling from special services appropriations to fund sectarian and factional acts and plan subversion and political assassinations aimed at Indian leaders, Army commanders, and leading public figures.

It is not difficult to see why the CIA sought the assistance of British colonial circles. Britain is the chief expert in this field. It ruled nations through this cunning method during its empire days, an empire on which the sun never used to set. The American conspiracy, which is aimed at creating disturbances and sedition in India climaxing with the assassination of Indira Ganda, had its roots in the great displeasure of the United States with the policies of the late Indira Gandhi, who continually worked to keep India out of U.S. and Western spheres of influence, to make India strong and free from all fetters, and play a more vital role in the cause of world peace, particularly in the Far East.

Through these policies, India formed and still forms an American weak point in this area. American failure to subjugate India after succeeding in taming several states there, some of which were very hostile, created a rift in that part of the Asian continent — a situation that resulted in resorting to nasty methods, such as fanning sectarian sedition.

The assassination of the Indian leader Indira Gandhi, it was hoped, would lead to intensifying the flames of sectarian violence and consequently fragmenting India to make it easier to control. The arms of the American octopus not only wreak havoc in India, but are also active in the Caribbean. There scores of naval vessels are gathering together with thousands of mercenaries trained by CIA experts in preparation for invading Nicaragua — the first criminal act with which Reagan will inaugurate his second term of office, if he wins the Tuesday elections as seems likely.

Perhaps no one is ignorant of the fact that the plan to invade Nicaragua is ready and waiting in the drawers of the Pentagon for the signal to launch it. If Nicaragua seems the first aggressive target of the United States Administration in Central American after the elections, the Jamahiriyah is also considered to be at the head of the list of states in the Arab homeland and Africa which are targets for aggression by the terrorist Reagan administration. The Jamahriyah is regarded as the throbbing heart of the international liberation movements and is relied upon by the progressive and revolutionary regimes in their struggle against imperialism.

It is not by accident that the anti-Jamahiriyah campaign by the United States should intensify and escalate. In 2 weeks more than three statements were made by senior officials in the Reagan administration which were dripping with hatred and poison against the Libyan Arab people. This hatred reached the point where the United States, with great power at its disposal, worked to deprive the Libyan Arab people of the simplest elements of modern technology for civilian purposes on the pretext that they might be transformed into military purposes.

This frenzied American campaign, which is hostile to the Libyan Arab people, coincides with feverish American moves in the Mediterranean. No one doubts that these movements are coupled with threats made in the last few days by Reagan and his Secretary of State George Shultz that confirm U.S. intentions to embark on what was termed retaliatory reaction, even if this leads to the death of some innocent people.

The Arab masses must not stand with arms folded in the face of these hostile moves. Such moves cannot be repelled except by strengthening the revolutionary alliance between the dynamic forces in the Arab homeland and the world. The Libyan Arab masses are called upon to confirm this truth by rejecting all forms of imperialist hegemony and should regard themselves as the first target of U.S. aggression in the area.

Armed Forces Chief Receives Palestinian Leaders

LD051208 Tripoli JANA in English 0935 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Tripoli, Safar 11, Nov 5, Jamahiriya News Agency — Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, received yesterday the command delegation of the Palestinian National Alliance [PNA] including Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestinian National Council; Ahmad Jibril, general secretary of the Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine-General Command; Abu Musa [Colonel Sa'id Musa], member of the new revolutionary movement in Fatah; 'Isam al-Qadi, general secretary of Al-Sa'iqah organization, and Dr Samir Ghawshah, general secretary of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front.

MOROCCO

King Hassan Press Conference Reported

PM020941 Casblanca LE MATIN DU SAHARA in French 26 Oct 84 pp 1-3

[MAP report on press conference given by Moroccan King Hassan II to French-language press journalists in Fes on 22 October]

[Excerpts] Question: Your Majesty, you are commander in chief of the Moroccan Armed Forces and you stated recently in Marrakesh that you wish to stress your intention to modernize the Moroccan Air Force. Does this mean that we are going to witness an escalation in the forces present in the Sahara, and especially the Air Force in the Sahara, after several calm years as far as the Air Force is concerned?

Answer: Madam, hitherto Morocco has had Mirage F-1 aircraft, which are excellent aircraft, and F-5E aircraft, which are also excellent aircraft. Moreover, since we do not have the kind of panoply of aircraft the United States and France have, comprising support planes, interception planes, night-flying planes and others, we were forced to hve these aircraft, which were, shall we say, single-purpose aircraft, to carry out missions for which they were not designed. And I must say that both the Northrop and Dassault Companies considered that the operations carried out by their aircraft were not at all part of the initial designs of the people who make these aircraft. We therefore made the F-1 and F-5E aircraft do the best they could, and I can assure you that they are capable of producing very good results. Out of necessity we were forced to have a little more imagination and, shall we say, even a degree of audacity, which was dangerous at times.

In the countries which border on us in the Maghreb, from Libya to Morocco, excluding Tunisia, to be frank, and in Libya and in Algeria there are MiG-23 and MiG-25 aircraft. I personally think, and we still think that, at fighting altitude, our F-1 aircraft can stand up against MiG-23 and MiG-25 aircraft, but this is a theory and let us presume and pray to God that it will remain so.

But there is no reason why, if one neighbor has a bigger size shoe, the other neighbor should keep the same size. It is not a question of arms or escalation, it is a question of updating. We think that there is now a better plane than the F-1, and we are aiming for the [Mirage] 2000; there is a much better plane than the F-5E, and we are aiming for the F-20 which, in my view, will be one of the best aircraft of the century. We have decided to purchase some. But trying to be in fashion has never been a criterion of conquest. When you choose the latest Courreges or Dior model, it does not mean that you are going to win your neighbor's husband. You are merely making yourself as handsome as your neighbor.

Egypt's Case

Question: Your Majesty, you played an essential role in the process which led to the conclusion of a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. I believe you are also playing an active role in the contacts now being made with the aim of bringing Egypt back into the Arab League. Could you give us the position on these two points, namely the Middle East conflict, and Egypt's place in the Arab world?

Answer: I can tell you that I am very sorry but, after all, the truth is the truth. And on both points you are echoing completely erroneous commentaries, analyses or reports, because in fact, if Israel and Egypt were absolutely determined to make peace, nothing obliged them to come here to Morocco. Morocco may even have been a less propitious place for imposing their will on each other than Moscow, New York, Paris, or London.

Now, as for establishing whether Egypt should return to the Arab League or not, the problem is completely different. I was talking before about parallel forms. I am a politician, but I am also a lawyer. The term parallel forms means, in legal terms, that a law can only be abrogated by a law, a decree by a decree, and an order by an order, and given that a decision had been taken at a particular level, only a decision taken at the same level could annul it or accept a particular temporary or single exception to the general decision. I made the following reproach to President Anwar al-Sadat — God rest his soul — when he went to Camp David.

I said: "Listen, you are my friend, you are a brother. I make this criticism of you: In your place I would not have waited 13 years before negotiating my country's liberation. I would have started negotiating my country's liberation as soon as it was occupied. You wanted to launch into a comprehensive liberation, in other words no separate peace. In your place I would have asked for an extraordinary summit before going to Camp David. I would have said to my brothers: My territory is occupied. I am a patriot and I cannot accept that a foreign soldier should be in my country. Either you give me a procedure for liberating it, and I am here to receive it, or, if you are unable to do so, either through lack of courage or lack of imagination, I ask you to release me from seeking a comprehensive peace. I want to liberate my country."

Exactly the same is true for King Husayn. His Majesty King Husayn, my brother, whom I love — and in addition he is my cousin — could, in my view, have asked for an extraordinary summit. I think that bilateral conditions between Jordan and Egypt, since they exist on a very deep level, or the international situation, or the fact that the Israelis are continuing their colonization policy make it necessary for somebody to make a move. I ask you to release me from my duty to show solidarity in seeking the liberation of my territories.

If that had been done there would have been one of three results — for once there would have been three alternatives — either to say to him: Listen, we give you your freedom; or: No, we refuse. But you are sovereign, you are free, you can do what you want, but we ask for our reservations to be written down. Or it would have been possible to reply to him: We leave it up to each Arab country to make a sovereign decision on whether the time has come for it to normalize its relations with Egypt or not. Faced with this event, this is what prompted me to call for an extraordinary summit, not in order to seek publicity or political stimulation, because we need neither, but in all good faith. I am chairman of the Arab summit until the next one is held. Faced with such an event, I could not fail to draw the attention of my fellows and say to them: Gentlemen, I think it is time to consult each other, to avoid an erosion of Arab solidarity, and to ensure that we do not form blocs because blocs among us, unfortunately, in Arab countries — it must not be forgotten that we are more or less Mediterranean — blocs are fierce and heated. I asked for the summit because I am chairman of the summit, and the aim was mainly to set a date, leaving everyone free to decide on the appropriateness or otherwise of holding this summit.

No Summit in the Immediate Future

Question: Your Majesty, will the summit not take place?

Answer: As I said in the speech with which I opened parliament, because the various heads of state we consulted are not in total agreement on the appropriateness of holding a summit, we are not holding it for the time being. Once again, as I told you, I am free.

The invitation to the summit was a purely formal invitation, like the chairman of an administrative council who feels things are not going well and says: Let us meet to avoid a split. Now, nobody wants to come, some want to come and others do not. You cannot force those who do not want to come, but I must admit that, in their replies, both those who said yes and those who said no gave reasons for their replies with great frankness and courtesy.

Always Ready For a Maghreb Summit

Question: With regard to summits, Your Majesty, since the proposal has been made several times, what is preventing the holding of a Maghreb summit?

Answer: I can tell you one thing. In my dressing room I have divided my cases into two. One half I must prepare for non-Maghreb countries, and the other is always ready for the Maghreb summit. I am prepared to go to a summit tomorrow, whenever people wish. But nobody will find any letter or message — historians in the near and distant future will be there to prove it — or any evidence that Morocco at any time rejected a summit or said: The time is not right.

I think things are being overcomplicated and those who want to make things too clear and prepare them too much — I do not want anybody to think this is directed at him personally, better is the enemy of good — those who want to make too many preparations are not willing or do not have the courage to place in their cases all the goods they want or are not free to take the goods they want from their neighbors. My peddler's tray is ready, I have it before me and can take it with me tomorrow.

Question: Your Majesty — Robert Vial from *LE DAUPHINE LIBERE*, and also secretary general of the Franco-Arab Solidarity Association — I would like to ask you two questions on the Middle East because I know that the situation in the Middle East is particularly close to your heart. These two questions relate to the Iran-Iraq conflict, and I think we should talk about this because there has been a resurgence in the war in the past few days. Do the Islamic states intend to take a new initiative to try, if not to stop this war, at least to make an attempt to find a solution. The second question relates to the Palestinian problem. I know, and we all know, that Morocco has taken many initiatives in this sphere. There is apparently no solution to peace in the Middle East which does not depend on solving the Palestinian problem. There has recently been talk of a new solution, proposed by the Americans, of an international conference proposed by the Soviets. Does Morocco intend to take an individual stance or support either of these initiatives?

Answer: In fact the Iraq-Iran conflict, like all conflicts, started with a false assessment by both warring sides, each imagining that it could gain the upper hand in the following few weeks or months.

It will not discuss the conflict and the dangers it may cause and is causing. I must say, and as ICO chairman, I have to follow the work of the peace committee which does not just contain Arabs but also other Muslims, the reservations have so far come from Iran. [sentence as published] Iraq has always received the ICO's representatives. Iran has never received them, aside from once or twice at supranational level. Iran does not see the problem as an Iraqi-Iranian problem, but a problem between Saddam Husayn and Iran. They are prepared to do anything provided Saddam Husayn goes. In my view that is a completely irresponsible attitude which leads nowhere, because as soon as problems focus on individuals who symbolize the nation, whatever the popularity of the person who symbolizes the nation, as soon as this person is opposed by or becomes the target of the enemy side, a national wall of reinforced concrete is erected and there is no flaw in it.

The Peace Process in the Near East

With regard to the Middle East, my attitude toward my American friends has always been clear. I have always said to them: You can never aspire to leave the Soviet Union out of a solution in the Middle East, because Washington is 12,000 km from the first Middle East Arab capital — not from ours, it is 6,000 km from ours, but 12,000 km from Beirut — whereas Moscow is at most 600 or 500 km from the first Arab capital, and therefore, geographically speaking, you cannot ignore the second world power. Third, that world power which is called the USSR has common borders with some Arab countries and I personally would be in favor of an expanded conference which would involve the big powers and all the countries involved in the conflict, and even the neighboring countries. Now, there is an element which everybody forgets. It was in this very room in 1982, for the first time since 1948, that a plan called the Fes plan was published with the agreement of all the Arab countries and which implicitly recognized Isarel's existence.

I personally think that — and it is not because the plan was drawn up in Fes, it is not my plan but everybody's plan — using the Fes plan as a basis, combining it to some extent with the Reagan plan, cooking up the whole thing in Geneva in the presence of a good chef from the USSR, we would produce a good omelette and, in my view, produce something edible. When I say that I am being realistic, let us say I am rather Shakespearian in my way, that is how things are.

Question: Your Majesty, you spoke before of the Arab countries' right to make their own political choice and I would like to know whether, in your view, Lebanon also has the right to make its own political choices, to liberate its territory from several occupiers — you know very well that there is not just one but several occupiers. I would like to know what your majesty can do to help Lebanon achieve that liberation and restore peace in the country.

Answer: Madam, I do not deny any country the right to freely determine its own future. Lebanon is naturally included. I can help Lebanon but I cannot remake Lebanon. To be frank, Lebanon needs to be remade, I am not saying it has fallen apart, but it is in pieces.The important thing is to rebuild the engine. And if we list the pieces which make up that engine, they all exist. The crucial thing is to have peace in the workshop and the mechanics will be able to put the engine together. In this sphere God is my witness that I have always done this and will continue to do it, but it is a matter which is in the hands of the Lebanese. It is your division which caused the occupation.

SUDAN

Liberation Movement Spokesman on Policies

EA040050 (Clandestine) Sudanese People's Liberation Army Radio in English 1300 GMT 3 Nov 84

[Excerpts]From Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] we bring you an interview with Joseph Oduho, chairman, Political and Foreign Affairs Committee of the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement], in which our reporter asked him to evaluate the policies and objectives of the SPLM, considering his 20 years of experience in Sudanese politics:

[Begin Oduho recording] In order to evaluate the, I mean, the policies and objectives of the SPLM, we have got to look into the root causes of the problem, the political problem for the Sudan. The Sudan from my experience, and even from its own history, has a lot of problems, political problems.

The ruling class of the Sudan came mostly from the developed areas of the Sudan, Khartoum Province, the Gezira and White Nile scheme areas — that is where the ruling class of the Sudanese came from. These people since independence have been cynical towards the development of the backward areas of the Sudan. For instance, they will tell you when they have a budget of say — one of the budgets during the 10 years of local autonomy in the south — one of the budgets was 1 billion pounds. When you ask them how much of this budget goes to the south, they say: Oh, the south gets the lion's share, and the lion's share of that 1 billion dollars [as heard] — the lion's share they talk of is 7 million pounds. This is cynicism at its worst. All this money is concentrated in the already overdeveloped parts of the Sudan.

Not a bit of this money has been given to raise the standard of living, the standard of education, the standard of political awareness of the people of western Sudan, of eastern Sudan, and even for south Sudan, for that matter. No, what happens is that the ruling classes in the north are not serious, because if they were serious they will not have [words indistinct] in the areas if they agree are backward areas.

The unity of the Sudan which, the policies which they have adopted to attain the so-called unity of the Sudan, is mostly cultural and spiritual. They insist on the Arabization of the non-Arabs of the Sudan and the Islamization of the non-Muslims. What the people of the backward areas want is something for their human needs. They need water; they need food; they need education in order to cope with the modern world of today so that they can get jobs. These are the things the people need, but the ruling cliques [words indistinct] always had the policy of Arabization and Islamization.

And these policies do not solve the problems, the human problems, the Sudanese in eastern Sudan are meeting, and the Sudanese in western Sudan are meeting, and the Sudanese in southern Sudan are meeting. Hence the Sudanese of these backward areas are convinced beyond reasonable doubt that as long as these people, this ruling class, continues to rule the Sudan there is no hope for them ever getting results.

They also made a mistake in the south, where they know that there are Christians in the south, and they want to make them Muslims by introducing shari'a laws. Shari'a law was not, as Numayri claimed, established to purify the Sudanese society. Shari'a law was actually intended to facilitate and to intensify and to quicken the development, I mean the Islamization of non-Muslim areas of the Sudan. And in this case — in that case — it was (?felt) that those parts of the Sudan where people were Christians or pagans, hence the idea of introducing shari'a law.

The policies of the SPLM are therefore very clear. The Sudan is a country, unlike Saudia [as heard] which is homogeneous. The Sudan is not homogeneous, the Sudan is heterogeneous. You find all sorts of people in the Sudan, people of Arab stock, people of African stock, people of that stock, they are all there; and you find Muslims, you find non-Muslims, you find Christians, you find animists. A country like that cannot be united by the use of Islam or Christianity. The Sudan can only be united under what we call the SPLM policies and aims and objectives.

The SPLA-SPLM policies are very clear. We (?want) to fight for a united Sudan under the socialist system. Socialism is neutral. It is not anti-Islam. It is not anti-Christianity. It is not anti-anything anybody may call himself. It is not anti-people of Sudanese of Arab stock or Sudanese of African stock. It is not against any of these. It is there only [words indistinct] our permanent constitution recognizes, this permanent constitution is what Numayri has been violating by the introduction of shari'a law.

So the Sudan, I mean the SPLM, is very, very, very clear. [Words indistinct] Our policies are intended to revive the Sudan to allow people of various religious groups to practice their own religion and those of the many linguistic groups to follow their own traditional languages and to speak them. It is not intended — the policies, I mean, are very, very clear. They are very clear in our manifesto. [words indistinct] We intend to fight for a united socialist Sudan and to uphold autonomous status to all nationalities in the Sudan. The SPLM aims to guaranteeing human rights to all Sudanese nationalities. Guarantees for freedom of choice of religion to all Sudanese.

We will raise political consciousness of all the Sudanese people by providing political education, endeavor relentlessly to create tolerance and harmony among the Sudanese nationalities, religious communities or racial groups, abolish all forms and manifestations of discrimination based on race, religion, sex, etc., abolish the shari'a law and reestablish the Sudanese secular law before the introduction of shari'a law, compensate all Sudanese whose limbs have been amputated as a result of the introduction of shari'a law.

On economics, the SPLM will respect and improve upon the socialist nature of the Sudanese economy and continue to respect its philosophy of a mixed economy, to develop and exploit the natural wealth of the Sudanese, particularly the oil and mineral wealth of the Sudanese, particularly the oil and mineral wealth of the south and western Sudan and build a strong Sudanese — I mean integrated — economy, and to utilize Sudanese money that will be derived from petrol and from minerals in order to develop the mainstay of the Sudanese economy, which is agriculture. [end recording]

That was part one of the interview with Joseph Oduho, chairman, Political and Foreign affairs Committee of the SPLM. We'll bring you the second part tomorrow.

TUNISIA

Bourguiba Hospitalized for Unknown Illness

NC051730 Paris AFP in English 1727 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Tunis, Nov 5 (AFP) — Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba was admitted to the cardiology ward of a Tunis hospital today just hours after doctors ordered him to rest at home due to a "minor illness" brought on by overwork, it was announced here.

The 81-year-old president was taken to Ernest-Conseil Hospital, where an official communique said he would receive better care than available in the presidential palace at Carthage, 20 km northeast of here. The exact nature of Mr Bourguiba's illness was not immediately known.

The decision to hospitalize the president was preceded earlier today by a brief official statement saying he had been ordered to bed for several days to recover from "a minor illness due to overwork." Today's announcements were signed by three doctors, the cardiologist Mohamed Ben Ismail, a neurophysician and a generalist.

Mr Bourguiba's apparent heart troubles followed his return from Algiers, where he attended celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of the Algerian revolution November 1. After viewing a military parade on that occasion, he failed to attend a reception held by Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, at which he was represented by his wife, Wassila.

President Bourguiba suffered a heart attack in 1967, but recent visitors reported that he appeared to be in good health.

Under the Tunisian Constitution, in the event that the president should be unable to continue his functions, the prime minister, currently Mohamed Mzali, would become acting head of state.

WESTERN SAHARA

Polisario Reportedly Kills 13 Moroccan Soldiers

NC060924 Paris AFP in English 0900 GMT 6 Nov 84

[Text] Algiers, Nov 6 (AFP) — The Polisario Front said today that its guerrillas had killed 13 Moroccan soldiers and wounded a similar number during an attack Saturday in the northeast of the disputed territory of the Western Sahara. A Polisario communique published here said the attack around Smul Niran and (?Lemgueirinat) lasted two and a half hours, and a Moroccan 120-mm mortar and a Land Rover were destroyed. The communique said that 237 Moroccan troops were killed, 492 wounded and 10 captured last month. A new Polisario offensive began on October 13. In addition, three long-range radars, 18 Land Rovers, 13 armored vehicles, 17 troop carriers, many guns and light weapons were destroyed, the communique said.

Foreign Minister on Spain-Morocco Military Pact

LD051221 Algiers APS in English 1015 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] SDAR, 5/11/84 (APS) Mr Ibrahim Hakim, Politburo member of Polisario Front SDAR foreign affairs minister made a comment in a declaration issued by the Saharan minister of information and culture on the Spanish defense minister's declaration in which he affirmed Spain desire to reinforce military cooperation with Morocco and its intention to deliver arms to it. The declaration by the Spanish minister was made following a visit the latter made in Morocco recently and when ending talk with king of Morocco.

The Saharan minister consider [as received] that: These facts prove that there is a constant conspiration between Rabat and the Spanish Government against the Saharan people. The Spanish Socialist Government, Mr Hakim further added proves obviously not only its will to back up the crime committed when concluding Madrid accord. [sentence as received]

ETHIOPIA

Drought Aid From GDR Arrives in Addis Ababa

LD060245 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1119 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Addis Ababa, 5 Nov (ADN) — The third Interflug aircraft within a week with GDR aid for drought victims in Ethiopia landed Monday at Addis Ababa Airport. The 20.7 tons of food and medicines were immediately loaded onto waiting trucks and transported to the central depot of the state aid and rehabilitation commission. From here, donations arriving daily in the Ethiopian capital pass to the regions affected by the drought.

TANZANIA

Nyerere Urges Portugal To Act Against 'Bandits'

MB051124 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania has called on the Portuguese Government to take steps against nationals in Portugal who present themselves as representatives of the armed bandits opposed to the People's Republic of Mozambique.

President Julius Nyerere conveyed the Tanzanian position to the Portuguese Prime Minister Mario Soares in New Delhi at a meeting during the funeral of the late Mrs Indira Gandhi, Indian prime minister and chairman of the Nonaligned Movement. Mario Soares had requested the meeting with the Tanzanian head of state to express his country's concern over the situation of four Portuguese nationals who have been imprisoned since August of this year in Tanzania.

When they were detained, the four Portuguese nationals had been in that country for 4 weeks on contracts with a U.S. game hunting firm as hunting guides. At the meeting with Mario Soares in New Delhi, President Julius Nyerere said that the four Portuguese nationals detained in Tanzania have close links with the armed bandits in Mozambique, adding that they had gone to Tanzania to promote activities against Mozambique.

President Nyerere told Mario Soares that anyone who attacks Mozambique is also attacking Tanzania, and thus the Tanzanian Government felt forced to act to prevent this attempt against the sovereignty of the People's Republic of Mozambique. The Frontline chairman deplored the fact that propaganda is being spread from Portugal and actions against Mozambique are planned in Portuguese territory.

WAKH: First Zanzibar Prime Minister Dies in UAE

GF041446 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Dubayy, 4 Nov (WAKH) — Mr Muhammad Shamti Hammad, first prime minister of Zanzibar and one of the Zanzibar revolution leaders, died at Rashid Hospital in Dubayy yesterday. His body was removed from the hospital this morning and will be buried today in Al-Nakhil graveyard in Ra's al-Khaymah after the afternoon prayer.

CAMEROON

President Biya Returns From Holiday in Europe

AB051911 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] The head of state, His Excellency Paul Biya, returned to Yaounde this afternoon from Europe where he had been on holiday.

CHAD

French General Lacaze Holds Talks With Habre

AB052141 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] The chief of the General Staff of the French Army, General Jeannou Lacaze, was received late this morning by the head of state, El-Hadj Hissein Habre. The general came to Chad to inspect the withdrawal of Operation Manta soldiers a few days before the deadline is reached for the simultaneous withdrawal stipulated in the Franco-Libyan agreements. After this meeting, Gen Lacaze left our capital. On the gangway, shortly before boarding the plane, Gen Jeannou Lacaze spoke to our reporter about the approaching deadline for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Chad.

[Begin recording] [Lacaze] We have some information about the withdrawal situation. On our side we have totally respected the fixed deadline and we think that we do not have any motives at present to change it. The Libyans have also accepted this deadline and are doing all they can to respect it.

[Unidentified reporter] General, what do you think of this statement by Claude Cheysson, who said: If they come back, we will come back?

[Lacaze] Claude Cheysson spoke these words within the framework of the deadline stipulated in the bilateral withdrawal agreement.

[Reporter] You held private talks with the president of the Republic this morning. Could you tell us what you discussed at that meeting?

[Lacaze] I held discussions with the president of the Republic about what could be called the aftermath of Manta, that is the implementation of the cooperation agreement existing between Chad and France. A certain number of French cadres and technical assistants have been stationned in Chad henceforth to implement this cooperation agreement.

[Reporter] What (?categories) of French technical assistants will remain in Chad after the Manta operation is over?

[Lacaze] There will be over 100 French technical assistants in charge of training and supporting the Chadian people. [end recording]

Discusses Withdrawal; Ends Visit

AB051622 Paris AFP in English 1516 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Ndjamena, Nov 5 (AFP) — French Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Jeannou Lacaze ended a 36-hour visit to Chad today declaring that there was no reason to believe Tripoli was not honouring its end of the Franco-Libyan mutual troop pullout agreement.

Gen Lacaze, who met earlier today with Chadian President Hissein Habre, told journalists that reports from French observers monitoring the Libyan pullout from rebel-held areas in northern Chad indicated that Tripoli was withdrawing its soldiers as planned.

French forces have steadily withdrawn from bases in the southern half of Chad since the mutual pullout formally began September 25 and are currently stationed only in the capital. Under the terms of the withdrawal accord signed September 16, the two countries' forces were to leave Chad by this Friday.

Chadian officials have often expressed doubts over Libya's intention to effectively withdraw its troops from the north, but Gen Lacaze today reiterated his belief that Tripoli was respecting the schedule. "We believe, and we have no reason for the time being to think otherwise, that the Libyans have accepted the timetable and are in the process of applying it," he said. Turning to his 90 minute meeting early today with Mr Habre, the French army chief said the discussions centered on Franco-Chadian cooperation following the French troop pullout. He added that "just over a hundred" French military advisors would remain in Chad to help train the country's armed forces.

Shortly before Gen Lacaze left today, the official Chadian news agency ATP said that Operation Manta, the code-name given to France's military intervention in Chad, had formally ended yesterday, when the head of French forces here, General Yves Bechu, presided over a farewell ceremony for his last remaining units.

French troops arrived in Chad in August 1983 to halt a Libyan-backed offensive by the Transitional Government of National Union (GUNT) led by former President Goukouni Oueddei. Since that time, the country has been divided in half, with Mr Goukouni's forces in control of the north and Mr Habre in Ndjamena.

AFP: CDR Wants 'Empty Chair Policy' at OAU

AB021750 Paris AFP in French 1441 GMT 2 Nov 84

[Text] Paris, 2 Nov (AFP) — The Revolutionary Democratic Council (CDR), one of the main components of the Transitional National Union Government (GUNT, an armed opposition to President Hissein Habre), has called on the OAU to impose the "empty chair policy for Chad, with the organization's organs."

In a statement issued in Brazzaville and made public on Friday in Paris, the CDR, whose secretary general is Acheikh Ibn Oumar, holds the Ndjamena authorities "responsible for the failure of the preparatory meeting" recently held in the Congolese capital and in which, it said, it participated "fully," thus proving its "preparedness for dialogue."

The statement pointed out that "serious" problems created by Goukouni Oueddei "exist within the GUNT." It expressed the CDR's "commitment" to the "historic accord" signed in Lagos in 1979 which set up the GUNT. The statement called on "all peace-loving countries," in particular Congo, to "strengthen their efforts to achieve reconciliation among the Chadians."

CDR Leader Throws More Light on Fada Incident

AB052134 Paris AFP in French 1511 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Acheikh Ibn Oumar, secretary general of the Democratic Revolutionary Council [CDR], today accused "a group of traitors in the pay of the internal enemy" of being the cause of incidents that took place at the end of October in Fada (northeast of Chad).

Chadian ambassador to France Allam-mi Ahmad had announced on 28 October that clashes had taken place between elements of the Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) fighting against President Hissein Habre at the end of last month in Fada. The GUNT radio — Radio Bardai — mentioned the incident the same day but down-played it.

Through Thiam Tidjani, the spokesman of his movement in Paris, Ibn Oumar indicates that the CDR has "foiled the hidden machinations of a group of traitors" in the Fada and Faya-Largeau areas. The CDR secretary general warns "ambitious and unscrupulous troublemakers" who indulge in "tribalistic regionalist and religious operations" and adds that his movement controls the situation "in liberated areas."

Finally, Ibn Oumar stresses "the total readiness" of the CDR to hold discussions with various leaders of the GUNT to "accomplish the real unity of all the patriotic forces," adding that "the major concern of the CDR remains in liqudation of the bloody clique in Ndjamena" (Hissein Habre's regime).

AFP: Gunt Supporters Arrested in Saudi Arabia

NC051158 Paris AFP in English 1135 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Paris, Nov 5 (AFP) — Saudi authorities have begun arresting sympathisers and supporters of the Chadian opposition movement, the transitional Government of National Union (GUNT), GUNT representative Abderrahman Moussa said here today. Most of the arrests over the past 48 hours have taken place in Jeddah and Medina and those arrested have been threatened with extradition, he said. Mr. Moussa asked humanitarian organisations to intervene.

Bardai Radio Reports Libyan Withdrawal Operations End

AB052104 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] On the military scene, the Franco-Libyan disengagement operations is drawing to an end. Libyan elements in the northern part of our country have finished withdrawing their troops [words indistinct] and especially from Fada.

Bardai Radio: 50 Civilians Executed in Reprisals

AB052108 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Excerpt] According to our permanent correspondent, the fighting which was stopped because of the Brazzaville political talks have been resumed, and the courageous National Liberation Army [ANL] soldiers have become better organized and have increased in number. They have also become more combat ready. Seeing that the activities of the revolutionary forces are becoming more disturbing, the FAN soldiers continue their savage reprisals against the popular forces in the towns and villages, whereas the whole of the countryside is held by the ANL.

According to information received from reliable sources, the bloody Hissein Habre's FAN arrested and executed over 50 civil servants in and around the city of Sarh. Those executed included (Madjer Bim), commissioner of police in the city of Sarh; Odingar, deputy commissioner of police in Mao; (Dounoungobaye Goussam), civil engineer in the city of Sarh; a civil adminstrator for the city of Sarh; Baria Jean-Marc, engineer; and (Banjidio) Etienne, director of the Socopao [French shipping firm in Central and West Africa].

Bardai Reports GUNT Diplomatic Success in Algiers

AB041120 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 3 Nov 84

[Text] On 1 November, the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria celebrated the anniversary of its revolution. On that occasion, representatives of all friendly countries arrived in Algiers to attend the festivities organized to mark the occasion.

Chad, its revolution, its people, and government were represented at these festivities by a delegation headed by Comrade Adoum Yacoub, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation. A delegation of the puppet group from Ndjamena had to leave Algiers because our official delegation at this Algerian festivities was received with all the honors worthy of (?its rank and place).

This spectacular incident, which is a smarting failure for the international imperialist agents [words indistinct] in the Algerian capital did not cause the least emotion; no one gave it any importance, not even the host country. In fact, it was only fair, for by coming to Algeria, the Ndjamena delegation was being a nuisance to the host country and was spoiling the good mood of that historic day not only for Algeria but for the whole of Africa. Hissein Habre's (?delegation) thus did everyone a favor by withdrawing themselves from the ceremonies. Among the many delegates, especially those from anti-imperialist progressive states and organizations [words indistinct] the Transitional National Union Government naturally figured high on the tribune. This is another hard blow to the Ndjamena neocolonial administration which is in disarray.

GABON

Bongo Returns, Comments On Visits, OAU

AB021345 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 1 Nov 84

[Summary] Head of state His Excellency El-Hadj Omar Bongo, founding secretary general of the Gabonese Democratic Party and President of the Republic, returned home this afternoon after visiting the FRG and Switzerland where he held very fruitful talks with these two countries' businessmen. On his arrival, the president of the Republic granted an interview to the Gabonese press. We invite you to listen to the entire interview in which the head of state talked about his visit to the FRG and Switzerland, the situation in Chad after the failure of the Brazzaville conference, our country's candidacy for the post of OAU secretary general, and the brutal death of Mrs Indira Gandhi.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] "Mr President, your just concluded visits to West Germany and Switzerland were marked mainly by economic discussions. What can the Gabonese people expect from these discussions, Mr President?"

[Bongo] I think that the work we did during our visit to West Germany is very important for Gabon. But we must first (?make a report) to the Council of Ministers. After Germany, we went off course to Switzerland where we again had discussions with some businessmen.

[Reporter] Will Gabon be a candidate for the post of secretary general at the forthcoming OAU summit meeting in Addis Ababa, Mr President?

[Bongo] Gabon's candidacy will be maintained. "After the summit, the Gabonese diplomacy will have to be reviewed from top to bottom." Some people claim to be our brothers and friends. "This (?election) will be for us an opportunity to see whether we really have friends and brothers. As I have just said, our diplomacy will have to be reviewed." At the OAU summit, Gabon will know if it has any chances. "In any case, our candidate is not an unemployed person." [remainder interview indistinct] [end recording]

Cabinet Adopts Budget; New Ministers Named

AB040606 Paris AFP in English 1415 GMT 3 Nov 84

[Text] Libreville, Nov 3 (AFP) — The Gabonese Cabinet has adopted a budget for 1985 totalling 1.46 billion dollars, with earnings from oil down for the first time in 6 years.

The Cabinet, chaired by President Omar Bongo, agreed to continue its austerity programme stated in 1978. Earnings for the coming year are put at 1.28 billion dollars, 806 million dollars of this being income from oil. Planned spending is split between the national debt which stands at 290 million dollars, in operating budget of 471 million dollars and investments totalling 700 million dollars. The budget, up 24 million dollars over the current year, shows a fall in oil income of 21.5 million dollars. But this is compensated for by increases in taxation totalling 41 million dollars.

Observers pointed out that this was the first time since 1978 that earnings from oil had decreased, and a government spokesman said this marked a turning point in the national economy. The spokesman said that oil receipts were expected to level out in coming years and that new state spending would continue to be financed by taxes. But he added that some taxes had been cut under the 1985 budget and a price freeze lifted in a bid to encourage industrial investment.

In another development today, President Bongo announced two minor changes in the line-up of his government. Emmanuel Bekale, formerly secretary of state for small and medium-sized businesses, was made a full minister of the same department. Antoine Mboumbou-Miyakou, formerly secretary of state to the Ministry of State for Territorial Administration and Local Collectivities, was also made minister of his department.

Mr Mboumbou-Mikayou's former post is taken by Samuel Mbaye, former Gabonese ambassador to France.

Equatorial Guinea President Departs

AB050845 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 0630 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] The Equatorial Guinean president has left Gabon. Colonel Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo left Libreville on Saturday afternoon at the end of a visit to Gabon lasting a few hours. During his visit, he held lengthy talks with his Gabonese counterpart, President Omar Bongo.

Questioned before his departure, Col Mbasogo stated that his talks with Bongo touched on bilateral relations and on the situation in Africa — Western Sahara and Chad — and enabled them to work out a common position on major current issues. The results which we reached are very satisfactory, he added. Meanwhile, President Mbasogo said that his country would endorse and defend Gabon's candidacy for the post of OAU secretary general at the organization's 20th summit scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa on 12-15 November. The Equatorial Guinean leader was accompanied on this brief visit by three members of his Cabinet.

ZAIRE

Belgian Paper Interviews President Mobutu

AB051230 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1415 GMT 3 Nov 84

[Interview granted by President Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko to Brussels *L'ECHO DE LA BOURSE* — date and place not given]

[Text] *L'ECHO DE LA BOURSE*: What is your assessment of relations between Belgium and Zaire?

Mobutu: My innermost belief has always been that they should be privileged relations. Our common history calls for this. I will be frank with you, however, and tell you what is at the bottom of my heart. There are facts which do not allow us, Zairians, to believe in the sincerity of our partners. Although Zaire is a friend of your country, it is not Belgium itself. Although Belgium is a friend of Zaire, it is not Zaire itself. I mean that there are differences. It is not because we inherited certain habits, that we will become the Belgians of Africa, and vice versa. It is not because you colonized us, that you will know us better than anyone else or that you will become the Zairians of Europe.

There is a very clear distinction to be made. I have been saying this on every occasion — our right to be different cannot be disputed by anyone. It seems to us that this right is hard to conceive in Belgium. Is this due to a superiority complex felt by the former colonial rulers? I cannot tell.

L'ECHO DE LA BOURSE: So do you believe that Belgium does not recognize your right to be different?

Mobutu: If this were not the case, how could you explain the fact that Belgium interferes from time to time in Zaire's affairs? If you often read Zairian papers, you will realize that anything that affects the Belgians to any degree is followed with sympathy by Zairians. But we say it is not our business. It concerns our Belgian friends in Europe and we do not pass judgement on this. Concerning Zaire, however, when I, President Mobutu, make a decision, it sparks reactions as if I was being blamed for not previously taking the advice of Belgium. This annoys us. We have the impression that you are a little too interested in us.

L'ECHO DE LA BOURSE: Will President Mobutu's forthcoming 7-year term of office be marked by social achievements?

Mobutu: When I speak of social progress, I do not mean an increase in wages. The 1985 draft budget places more emphasis on social benefits, family allowances, and other types of benefits in an effort to improve the lot of Zairians. For instance, in the previous budgets, the allocation of the Health Department represented only 3.5 to 4 percent of the total budget. Under the new draft budget, it will represent 13 percent. In making the increase, I intend to ensure that beginning next year, the standard of our clinics, hospitals, health centers, and drug supplies live up to expectations. I do not want any more loopholes. The citizens of this country, whom I usually call upon to endorse my policy of recovery, are entitled to adequate health care. This is how I see social progress.

L'ECHO DE LA BOURSE: During our visit to Kinshasa, we realized that the banking sector was affected by strikes pressing for an increase in salaries. Mr President, how do you plan to reconcile your social policy with the requirements of your policy of recovery which aims notably at reducing the inflation rate from 80 percent recorded in 1983 down to 30 percent in 1984? Won't there be any increases in salaries?

Mobutu: The social benefits will be increased. But you are mixing up two problems. Let us first speak of the inflation. The Zairian Government has implemented two phases of the recovery plan. Austerity measures were implemented in 1983 in the financial sector. We Zairians did this without seeking the assistance of anyone, and we were very successful. In 1983 we brought the inflation rate down from 130 percent to 80 percent. When we asked the IMF in September 1983 to draft a joint program of financial and economic recovery together with us, we promised that we would further reduce that rate to 30 percent in 1984. We have already reached this target and by the end of the year, we strongly hope that we will bring down the inflation rate to 15 or 20 percent. You will agree that this is a sizable effort which shows our determination to achieve positive results. Why are we making such efforts? Ours is a country that wants to command respect. We have a high rank in the comity of African nations and our position is in the forefront. We want to be worthy of our great country.

Let us now speak of strikes. I will remind you that the Constitution of the Republic of Zaire gives Zairian citizens all the rights and freedoms enjoyed by the citizens of other free countries. The striking Zairian citizens employed by banks know perfectly well that they are protected by the Constitution. I will add that I was shocked in reading a story carried by a Brussels daily which announced the strikes in the banking sector in Kinshasa noting that these strikes were illegal... period. This comment is clearly scandalous and I felt indignation over it.

L'ECHO DE LA BOURSE: In a nutshell, the Zairian head of state says in substance that wage increases concern management, workers, and the national trade union. It is up to the social partners to reach agreement. Is this right?

Mobutu: Exactly so. But should the situation worsen, the Zairian authorities would step in.

L'ECHO DE LA BOURSE: Does this also mean that within the framework of the current austerity program, salary increases would be imcompatible with the objectives of the recovery program because they would increase inflation?

Mobutu: Concerning investors, employers, and enterprises, the Zairian Government has adopted a liberal policy in the economic field and allows the transfer of profits. On the other hand, workers in the banking sector and other enterprises are not blind and no one can forbid them to make demands. They have the right.

Lastly, in view of the profits that the Zairian enterprises can make from this liberal economic policy, Zairian workers in general are simply seeking to improve their conditions. The employers themselves, who transfer their profits, must also understand that workers have rights. Look at the practices. A miner at the General Quarries and Mines Company earns 1,000 zaires a month while a Belgian expatriate earns about 300,000 Belgian francs including the fringe benefits. Draw the conclusion yourself.

L'ECHO DE LA BOURSE: One of the conditions imposed by the IMF for its help is for Zaire to control inflation. The IMF aid program will be rescheduled for a year next February. Do these negotiations have any chance of success and what would be the conditions imposed by the IMF?

Mobutu: You should reformulate your question. Right now you cannot find any partner who can be compared to Zaire in its respect for promises made to the IMF, and I am not inventing this nor am I saying anything new. This led me to meet our main partners, among which are countries like France, the United States, Belgium, as well as West Germany and Italy, to implement my soical policy. Why these contacts? This year, we are asked to pay $360 million within the framework of our external debt payments. This demand on a country that has for 2 years made rigorous efforts is not reasonable. We are just human beings...yes, as I told the officials of the IMF, we will continue to make further efforts. Three years of rigor... yes, but with a little breathing space for Zairians. I must add that our partners were understanding. They encouraged me everywhere, especially in Belgium where, as you know, I recently met Prime Minister Martens.

L'ECHO DE LA BOURSE: Mr President, in other words, you asked for a rescheduling of Zaire's external debts during your visits to these countries and your request was accepted?

Mobutu: My request was wholeheartedly accepted.

L'ECHO DE LA BOURSE: Which means that the rescheduling request has been granted?

Mobutu: I cannot give you an answer for the moment. You must wait till end of February, early March, when within the framework of the Paris Club, the IMF and the World Bank on one hand, and all our partners and Zaire on the other will meet to make certain decisions.

L'ECHO DE LA BOURSE: Even if Zaire's external debt is relatively low compared to those of other developing countries (it fell from $5.1 billion to $4.7 billion), the fact remains that it bears heavily on the country's budget. It prevents the state from operating as effectively as would be wished. Mr President, could you set a date beginning from which Zaire would be in a more comfortable situation?

Mobutu: I made you understand that the debt could not be totally paid in 2 or 3 years. Otherwise, I would not have undertaken this trip to Europe and America. We feel that our most important partners are also concerned; they should not impoverish Zaire; they must show much understanding toward Zaire. The country is enforcing rigor and paying its debts gradually, while other countries agree to enforce rigor but refuse to pay their debts. You can see we are honest. I am not in the least tempted by the example of some countries which try to escape from their responsibilities. My actions are guided by intellectual honesty and credibility. I want my partners to take me seriously. I want to be a serious partner to them. Zaire will respect its commitments. But the country should be able to engage simultaneously in the economic recovery process, social development projects, agricultural development, in the training of medical personnel, and so on in agreement with our partners. This is my line of conduct.

Mobutu Restructures Gecamines Holding Company

AB022121 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1630 GMT 2 Nov 84

[Excerpts] Kinshasa, 2 Nov (AZAP) — Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko signed a series of decrees on Friday on the creation and statutes of a state company called the General Quarries and Mines Holding Company [Gecamines] which includes three autonomous branches — "Gecamines-Exploitation" Company, "Gecamines-Commercial" Company, and "Gecamines-Development" Company.

Citizen Umba Kyamitala, former state commissioner for mines and energy has been appointed chairman of the Gecamines Holding Company, while Citizen Mule Da Mbo is to be managing director of the Gecamines-Exploitaion Company. Citizen Pay-Pay Wa Syakassighe, former state commissioner for national economy and industry, is to head the Gecamines Commercial Company while Citizen Dodo Kalogi will head the Gecamines Development Company.

BURKINA

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Netherlands

AB022127 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 2 Nov 84

["Press statement" read by announcer]

[Text] Discussions between two Burkinabe and Netherlands delegations took place in Ouagadougou from 31 October to 2 November 1984. The Netherlands delegation was led by (Mazairak), director for cooperation and development in Africa, while the Burkinabe side was headed by Comrade Youssouf Ouedraogo, minister of planning and development. This second meeting of the two delegations in 1984, enabled them to review their cooperation programs. The amount committed to Burkinabe-Netherlands cooperation for 1984 is 19 million Netherlands florins for financial assistance and 15 million florins for technical assistance, thus making a total of about 4.6 billion CFA francs.

After an exchange of views between the two delegations, the following areas were adopted as priority sectors of cooperation between the two countries: agricultural development aimed at food self-sufficiency, in particular farming and the fight against erosion; strenghtening the policy of support to the agricultural sector; marketing livestock breeding products; irrigated crops; and protection of the environment, in particular renewable energy sources through the rational use of firewood and water supplies in villages and secondary centers. Special attention will be accorded to the large field of integrated rural development in the Burkinabe regions. This approach implies the possibility of bringing in forms of assistance other than those scheduled under the priority areas mentioned above. Thus, the fields of health, animal breeding and education could later be discussed within the framework of integrated projects. It will be recalled that since 1975, Burkina Faso has received grants totaling about 28 to 30 billion CFA francs from the Netherlands for socioeconomic projects. The next round of talks will take place in early 1985.

GHANA

Complaints Body To Look Into 'Suppressed' Cases

AB052109 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] The chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] has directed the inspector general of police to set up a body to look into cases which appear to have been deliberately suppressed, thereby resulting in the abuse of justice. This follows a number of complaints to the PNDC Secretariat that some cases reported to the police are not followed up. An official statement issued this evening stated that a number of complaints have been received about matters reported to the Kaneshie and Ministries [an area of the capital] police stations in Accra which have not been followed up. The statement said the public will be invited to bring particulars of such cases while the policemen concerned will also have the opportunity to bring up justifiable and defensible problems which may have hindered their investigations in the processing of the cases.

While if it is found that genuine (?cases) have been deliberately suppressed for any reason, strict and appropriate action will be taken against those responsible. The statement reminded the public that other institutions exist for dealing with complaints of injustice. It mentioned in particular the office of the ombudsman which deals with complaints, especially against officials, institutions and agencies. Investigations and complaints departments of defense committees are also available to the public to look into their cases and if necessary, to pass them on to the appropriate authorities for action. The public should therefore take full advantage of all these avenues for seeking redress against injustice.

The revolution's goals of social justice can only be attained if the people will make use of all the available channels to resolve their grievances and provide the information needed to remove injustice from the system.

PNDC Member Receives Soviet Envoy, Cuban

AB051900 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] A PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] member, Justice Annan, has observed that Ghana has a good relationship with the Soviet Union and it is important that this relationship is maintained. Justice Annan was speaking when the Soviet ambassador to Ghana, Mr Semenov, called at his office in Accra today. He however stressed that in maintaining good relations, Ghana should not be diverted by factors that are not in her interest. Justice Annan said in line with the spirit of nonalignment, Ghana is pursuing a policy of positive neutrality and therefore tries to be friendly to all countries.

He disclosed that Ghana will soon sign agreement with the Soviet Union on cooperation in sport. This, he said, is the result of discussions he had with the Soviet minister of sport during his recent visit to Moscow. Justice Annan said there have been assurances by the Soviet Union to assist Ghana in the development of the Winneba sports college. He hoped this will become a reality.

On his part, the Soviet ambassador pledged his country's support for Ghana in all fields.

The counselor of the Cuban Embassy in Ghana, (Miguel Martinez Moliv) also paid a courtesy call on Justice Annan today. The two exchanged views on bilateral relations. Mr Justice Annan disclosed that the next Ghana-Cuban joint commission meeting will be held in Accra. He commented on efforts the Cuban Government is making to help Ghana produce her own sugar and hoped that such cooperation will cover other Third World countries. On his part, (Martinez Moliv) said relations between Ghana and Cuban have been particularly warm since the launching of the 31 December revolution. He said there are 9 Cuban medical doctors working in Ghana and approval has been given for 16 others to come to assist in Ghana. (Martinez Moliv) said Cubans faced the same problem of brain drain in

1959 when about 3,000 of her doctors left for other countries. But the revolution trained its own doctors to take their place, hence the ability of Cuban to give some out to other countries.

Tsikata, Delegation Meet With PRC Leaders

For Chinese media reportage on the visit to the PRC by a government delegation headed by PNDC Special Adviser Kojo Tsikata, including meetings with PRC President Li Xiannian, Premier Zhao Ziyang, and Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian, see the Middle East & Africa Section of the 6 November China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

IVORY COAST

Measures Introduced To Promote Local Industries

AB021255 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 2 Nov 84 p 3

[Excerpts] Nine bills were adopted last Tuesday by the parliamentarians who met in plenary session under the chairmanship of the speaker, Henri Konan Bedie. The state has introduced a series of measures aimed at promoting the creation and development of enterprises. There was the bill authorizing the president of the republic to ratify the ordinance of 11 January 1984 imposing a special internal tax on imported white rice, the bill exonerating electrical generators from all duties and taxes, the bill modifying certain provisions of the general tax code and of the National Investment Fund (FNI), the bill relating to the new private investment code, the bill creating additional charges and extra taxes on imports, and the bill concerning the creation of an export bonus.

The two other bills concern the compulsory declaration of births as well as the registration of births that had not been declared within the specified time and the regulations concerning properties belonging to the communes and the city of Abidjan. In today's report, we will confine ourselves to the bill modifying certain provisions of the general tax code and of the FNI and the bill concerning the creation of the exports bonus.

First of all, the taxes on trade profits (BIC): As far as these are concerned, one must note the measures aimed at facilitating the creation of enterprises (article 4 of the general investments code). These measures consist of increasing the duration of the tax-free period granted to new industries established outside Abidjan. There are also measures aimed at increasing the enterprises' capacity to finance themselves. They concern particularly the system of decreasing amortization (Article 6 of the General Investments Code).

Concerning the FNI, it will be noted that Article 6 of the fiscal law of 31 December 1972 is now completed by the introduction of a measure in favor of the small and medium-scale enterprises. This measure concerns the increase of the annual earned income allowance from 80,000 to 150,000 francs. Moreover, decree No 81-136 of 18 February 1981 now provides for a reduction of the minimum investment to be made by small and medium-scale enterprises and entitles them to a refund of the FNI certificates. [sentence as published] The reductions are as follows:

Abidjan area: 10 million francs instead of 15 million;

Outside Abidjan: 5 million francs instead of 10 million.

In order to increase the profits of the Ivorian industrial enterprises, create job opportunities through the development of exports, and make it easier for the Ivorian enterprises to gain access to foreign markets, the government had promised — in its economic policy declaration of 31 May 1983 — to introduce a bonus system for the export of manufactured products. The main purpose of the exports bonus is to improve the competitiveness of Ivorian enterprises by granting them an exports assistance comparable to the tariff protection accorded to their sales on the Ivorian market.

The exports bonus will apply first of all to the products manufactured only by the industries subjected to the extra taxes on imports, that is the textile, clothing, and wood transformation industries as well as industries connected with fertilizers and the transformation of agricultural products. The bonus will be extended to all manufactured products before 30 September 1985 in accordance with the commitments made in the economic policy declaration.

LIBERIA

NDPL Reacts to Criticisms by LUP Member

AB051906 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1710 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] The prospective National Democratic Party of Liberia [NDPL] has sharply reacted to criticisms published by the Sunday *DAILY OBSERVER* newspaper in which Mr Gabriel Kpoleh of the proposed Liberia Unification Party [LUP] accused the Special Elections Commission of being responsible for several irregularities allegedly committed by the prospective NDPL.

In its reaction, yesterday's *MIRROR* newspaper quotes the deputy secretary general of the prospective NDPL, Mr Bai Gbala, as denying reports that people in the various counties are being forced to join NDPL. He said it is not the policy of the prospective NDPL to seek members by threat, adding, freedom of speech and freedom of association as a basic policy is worth more than $4 million.

Addressing himself to the recent pre-registration carried out at the Special Elections Commission [Secom] by NDPL, Mr Gbala said the commission has required in its guidelines for the registration of political parties, that political parties must submit a list of their members, adding that Secom did not require any other information from them. With regard to public radio and television debates, the deputy secretary general of the NDPL is quoted by the *MIRROR* as saying his prospective party will welcome such dialectics if requested by the public. He said the debate between candidates of the various political parties will be interesting.

It can be recalled that the Sunday *OBSERVER* newspaper quoted Mr Kpoleh as alleging that the NDPL had gone out into the various counties to force persons to register under the banner of the NDPL and that people who failed to comply with the order were threatened with dismissal or told that they would be crushed and humiliated.

MALI

Traore Receives Visiting French Minister

AB051616 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Excerpt] General Moussa Traore, secretary general of the party and president of the republic, this afternoon received in audience French Justice Minister Robert Badinter, currently on a working visit to our country at the invitation of his Malian counterpart, Lieutenant Colonel Issa Ongoiba. They discussed ways to strengthen the privileged ties of fruitful cooperation and friendship between Mali and France. Other issues discussed were: France's preparedness to strengthen cooperation with Mali in the field of justice, in particular in the area of staff training; logistics support; exchange of experience, and the assistance that France gives to Mali in its efforts to fight the current drought and desert encroachment.

Traore Receives Message from Togolese Leader

AB051615 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Excerpt] The president of the republic, General Moussa Traore, today received in audience Koffi Amega, minister of foreign affairs of Togo and a special emissary of that country's president. Amega brought a message from President Gnassingbe Eyadema to President Moussa Traore. The message dealt with the ECOWAS summit to be held on 22 and 23 November 1984 in Lome.

NIGER

President Kountche meets Cadres on Economy

AB052125 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Excerpts] The head of state, Brigadier General Seyni Kountche, arrived in Agadez this morning. At a conference of cadres he presided over in the town today, he spoke at length about the economic situation. President Seyni Kountche spoke in particular about the life of companies operating in the Agadez department. The companies are: Somair [Uranium Mining Company of Air]; Cominak [Uranium Mining Company of Akouta] and Sonichar [Niger Coal Mining Company of Anou Araren]. Speaking on the uranium market, he said the price of the mineral has been falling since 1982. He pointed out that Niger's production of uranium, which was about 4,000 tons, has fallen to about 3,000 tons — a huge gap to make up. This is why, the head of state went on to say, we have taken some austerity measures that aim at maximizing the profitability of the two mining companies currently in operation. He said the measures conform with the difficult economic situation currently facing our country which has been caused by the world economic crisis. To this end, President Kountche urged representatives of mining workers trade unions who attended the conference of cadres, to accept the measures taken by the government and which will come into force as of 1 January.

President Kountche Announces Austerity Measures

AB052115 Paris AFP in English 1005 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Niamey, Nov 5 (AFP) — Niger is banning all expensive ceremonies as an austerity measure, President Seyni Kountche has announced.

The president, who was quoted by national radio while in Zinder, southeast Niger, yesterday as part of a tour to examine the results of an agricultural campaign, said the government would lead the way in cutting back on spending. It would no longer organise the national championships in traditional fighting, a popular annual event. Cultural festivals and celebrations to mark national anniversaries would also go by the board.

General Kountche asked citizens of Niger to help the austerity programme by celebrating marriages and baptisms as simply as possible. The current low price of uranium, Niger's major export, and the closure of the border with Nigeria for the past six months have dealt a heavy blow to the economy. Drought has added to these difficulties and this year Niger's grain deficit is estimated at 350,000 tonnes, despite the agricultural campaign.

NIGERIA

Buhari on Arms Production, Border Security

AB051730 Lagos NAN in English 1629 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Lagos, Nov 5 (NAN) — The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, announced today in Lagos that the Defence Industry Corporation had commenced production of military explosives, personal arms and ammunition for the Nigerian Armed Forces.

According to the head of state, this was the first step toward the production of a wide range of military hardware by the corporation. Maj Gen Buhari, who was addressing the opening session of this year's chief of army staff training conference, said that the administration would ensure that the corporation met its obligation of making the country self-sufficient in defence production. The local manufacture of some component parts and spare parts was envisaged in the next two years, he said, adding that a research and development directorate of the corporation had been set up to achieve this objective.

The head of state, who spoke extensively on training of personnel and maintenance of equipment within the army, urged officers to include, what he called, management instruction in all military courses and training to ensure that all and sundry appreciated the techniques of maintaining high morale and "espirit de corps." "You and your troops should not have course to be idle," he said, adding that the most important aspect of deterrence as it concerned the army was to maintain an effective and coherent force through qualitative training. He said that arrangements had been concluded to make the Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna, attain the status of a degree-awarding military institution, through which government hoped to provide trained manpower to maintain the sophisticated equipment and weaponssystems being introduced in the army. He recommended joint training for all the Armed Forces because of its economic advantages as well as the team spirit it would create among troops.

On internal security, the head of state said that the country's borders would remain closed until a workable trade arrangement was reached between the country and its neighbours. He said that facilities were being provided for effective patrol of the borders and urged troops stationed there to understand that they were deployed to perform invaluable services to the nation.

Maj Gen Buhari urged officers and men of the Armed Forces to be vigilant at all times because "we have enemies who would not relent in their efforts to destabilise the nation." He also spoke on discipline within the Armed Forces, saying that although the standard had not fallen, the officers should devise ways of improving on the existing standard.

In his address of welcome, the chief of army staff, Maj Gen Ibrahim Babangida, said that the conference would discuss vital issues as well as a document on the future development of the Nigerian Army. Army commanders and directors of the various army ~~units are attending~~ the five-day conference.

Brazilian Navy Warships Arrive for Visit

~~AB021715 Lagos NAN~~ in English 1355 GMT 2 Nov 84

[Text] Lagos, Nov. 2 (NAN] — The chief of naval staff, Commodore Augustus Aikhomu, said in Lagos yesterday that the Nigerian Navy was studying proposals by Brazilian Navy for joint military excercises.

Commodore Aikhomu made the remark when the squadron leader of two visiting Brazilian warships called on him. He noted that there was increased cooperation between the navy of both countries in recent years and added that would go a long way in strengthening the relations between them. He told his visitors to feel at home, pointing out that they would find Lagos interesting because indigenes of Lagos have a lot of cultural and social similarities with Brazilians.

Cdr Jose Eduardo Pimentel, the squadron leader, said that as developing countries, Nigeria and Brazil stood to gain a lot by sharing experiences and problems. Cdr Pimentel observed that with Brazil manufacturing most of its spare parts needed for the maintenance of its ships, Nigeria could benefit from its technological skill.

The two Brazilian warships sailed in to the country yesterday with a crew of 65 men. The ships, "Purus" and "Forte de Coimbra,"which are to be in the country for five days, will be open to the public tomorrow.

Border Patrol Officers to Carry Arms

AB021230 Lagos NAN in English 1200 GMT 2 Nov 84

[Text] Calabar, Oct 30 (NAN) — Immigration officers engaged in border patrol are to bear arms in the near future, the minister of internal affairs, Brigadier Mohammed Magoro, said in Calabar.

Addressing the 1984 conference of senior immigration officers, Brigadier Magoro said that in order to tackle effectively the problems of influx of illegal aliens, the border patrol division was being strengthened through increase in staff strength, staff [word indistinct] of modern facilities and equipment. He explained that an increase in staff strength would help to place the border patrol divisions in a position to police effectively our borders and assured them that government was making sustained efforts to provide the immigration with necessary working materials.

Brigadier Magoro called on Nigerians to demonstrate a sense of patriotism by exposing illegal aliens and by not offering them employment as well as not conniving with them to smuggle out essential commodities.

Responding, the director of immigration services, Alhaji L. Sambo, said that apart from governments declared intention to provide the department with sufficient infrastructural facilities to enable it to perform effectively, a conscious effort to increase staff strength to man the extensive and porous borders can not be over-emphasised.

The ministers address was read on his behalf by Mr Habib Aliyu, the secretary for finance and administration, Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs.

SENEGAL

Trade Union Protest in Capital Banned

AB052225 Paris AFP in French 1057 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Dakar, 5 Nov (AFP) — A meeting in "protest against the high cost of living," which was scheduled to take place on Sunday in Dakar at the initiative of five autonomous trade union organizations, has been banned by the prefect of the Senegalese capital, the organizers said on Monday.

According to the five trade union organizations, which are closely connected with the leftist opposition (Independent Trade Union of Justice Workers, Sole Trade Union of Health Workers, the two factions of the Sole Trade Union of Teachers and the Union of the Workers of Senegal), this ban constitutes "a serious violation of the fundamental principles of democracy," they asserted in a communique.

On Sunday the security forces sealed up all streets leading to the meeting place in the city's center in order to prevent any gathering. There were no incidents.

Another demonstration against the price increases, decided upon in Senegal within the framework of the implementation of an austerity policy drawn up by the government in collaboration with the IMF, was also banned last September. The demonstration was organized by the opposition parties out of which only one is represented in the National Assembly.

TOGO

Cooperation Talks With Romania Begin in Lome

AB052200 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Togo and Romania this morning started negotiations at the economic and financial services administrative center in Lome. These negotiations, which will last 7 days, are aimed at pursuing discusssions on the prospects for the development of cooperation between the two countries. The 10-member Togolese delegation is led by Mr (Lekabi Sessi), the technical adviser at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation currently charged with the department of political and legal affairs, while the 7-member Romanian delegation is led by His Excellency Vasile Chivulescu, the ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Romania to Togo.

Mr (Lekabi Sessi), the leader of the Togolese delegation, stressed in his address at the session the opportuneness of the decisions made 3 months ago in Bucharest during the visit by General Eyadema, the founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese People and president of the Republic. According to Mr (Sessi), these negotiations demonstrate the mutual determination of the two countries to rapidly strengthen their bilateral cooperation by ventures of mutual interest. In such a difficult period, he further stated, when the persistent effects of the world economic recession are strongly felt by developing countries, it is our duty to move further beyond the necessary cooperation which unite us and to put into concrete form the indispensable solidarity which alone can enable us to overcome contradictory interests and make us seek reciprocal advantages.

In his reply, the Romanian ambassador said he was very impressed by the warm welcome given him and which continues to be given him since he presented his credentials to the president of the republic. As Mr (Sessi) stressed, Mr Vasile Chivulescu stated that Romania is a developing country like Togo and so it has been affected by the world economic crisis and its after effects. The ambassador said, however, that Romania has succeeded in maintaining its development planning at a high level. Concerning foreign policy, Mr Chivulescu said Romania and Togo are fighting together for a new and more equitable world economic order, for the friendship, peace, independence, and sovereignty of their countries.

Speaking about the purpose of this meeting — the achievement of economic independence for the mutual interest of our peoples — the ambassador pointed out that this meeting of Romanian and Togolese experts is the result of our relations of friendship and fraternity strengthened by the recent visit by General Eyadema, the president of the republic, to Romania during which the two presidents, Ceausescu and Eyadema, decided on the possibility of implementing their economic, agricultural and industrial projects.

ANGOLA

CPSU Delegation Discusses Mass Organizations

MB060845 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 6 Nov 84

[Text] A delegation of the CPSU has been holding talks with the MPLA-Labor Party since yesterday concerning party leadership for the activities carried out by mass and social organizations. The visiting delegation is headed by Gennadiy Andreyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee. Yesterday afternoon it held a meeting with a delegation of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee's department for support of the mass and social organizations, headed by its chairman Carlos Gomes.

The Soviets are scheduled to hold a meeting with members of the secretariat general of the National Union of the Workers of Angola today.

Dos Santos Receives Spanish, French Envoys

MB051756 Luanda ANGOP in English 1630 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Luanda, 5 Nov (ANGOP) — The president of the MPLA-Labor Party and of the People's Republic of Angola, Jose Eudardo dos Santos, received in audience last Saturday, here, the Spanish ambassador in the People's Republic of Angola, Souto Pineiro, on the occasion of the end of his 3 years service in Angola. [words indistinct] To the audience, the Angolan head of state receivedcredentials of the fourth French ambassador accredited to Angola, (Jacques Galabru), and the Netherlands ambassador, (Vacian Hyeolith Meertins).

Dos Santos Sends Anniversary Message to Algeria

MB060840 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 6 Nov 84

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, has congratulated the Algerian people and party on the 30th anniversary of their launching the armed struggle for national liberation.

The Angolan head of state's message says the anniversary occurs at a time when imperialism's most reactionary circles persist in the deliberate creation of tension in the various regions of the world. Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos said he is certain that the determination of the Algerians will guarantee new victories in the struggle against the imperialist forces.

The message from Angola's supreme leader was addressed to Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the FLN Party and president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria.

Official Says Smugglers Seek Destabilization

MB060759 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 6 Nov 84

[Text] Comrade Roberto de Almeida, ideological secretary of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee, stated yesterday that the diamond smugglers wanted to destabilize the Angolan state. The illicit diamond trafficking and illegal currency exchange was aimed at strangling the monetary circuit, reducing Diamang's profits to a minimum, and giving support to the puppet groups. The action was perfectly coordinated to the extent that a number of international banks put up the initial capital without any hesitation.

Speaking during a press conference to clarify a number of issues related to the Kamanga trial, Comrade Roberto de Almeida described the damage from the illicit diamond smuggling, and said the indemnities sought by Diamang represent about 33 percent of the planned budget for the import of foodstuffs for the country's population during 1984.

Referring to the character of the defendants in the recently concluded Kamanga case, Roberto de Almeida said these individuals were strangers to the objectives of our revolutionary process who were uninterested and contemptuous of the people's struggle. Their behavior, he added, finds roots in their nostalgia for colonial times, causing them to want to retain by any means whatever the privileged status they enjoyed in the past.

UNITA Claims 72 FAPLA Troops, 2 Cubans Killed

PA051307 Paris AFP in Spanish 1144 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Lisbon, 5 Nov (AFP) — The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), armed opposition to the Angolan regime, staged operations between 24 and 30 October in 9 Angolan provinces that resulted in the death of 72 soldiers of the Popular Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola (FAPLA) and two Cubans.

The movement of Jonas Savimbi announced in a communique received by the AFP office in Lisbon that it destroyed several buildings of the Institute of Veterinary Research of Angola located in the city of Iambo, in the midsouthern region where Bulgarian, French, Cuban, and Portuguese volunteers work.

The garrison that [words indistinct] the institute sustained "severe losses," although UNITA did not report any dead among the foreign volunteers. The UNITA forces sustained 9 dead, 24 wounded, and 54 missing over the same period, the communique added.

BOTSWANA

Finance Minister Comments on Development Plan

MB051405 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] As preparations for the Sixth National Development Plan continue, the minister of finance and development planning, Mr

Peter Mmusi, has cautioned that average growth in overall economic activity is projected to slow down substantially over the next plan period. Growth during the Sixth National Development Plan will be based more on the small economic sectors relative to the size of the whole economy.

Opening the sixth national district development conference in Gaborone this morning, Mr Mmusi said the far slower growth in revenues that is anticipated up to 1990-91 means thatgovernment can no longer afford to expand its recurrent commitments at the rate of 10 percent per annum as it was doing during the last plan period. To expand such commitments, Mr Mmusi said, would very soon create substantial deficits as the level of expenditure outgrows the level of revenue.

He said unlike in the past, Botswana does not have any big mineral project either underway or on the horizon that could be expected to act as an engine for growth in the rest of the economy over the next 6 years. An important aspect of the long-term focus, he said, was that it is also not anticipated that there will be any major revenue-generating development after 1990, which will be in the Seventh National Development Plan period. Going into the start of the seventh plan running at a deficit, the government would be unable to rid itself of the problem except through the extremely painful process of cutting back on recurrent commitments.

The sixth national district development conference will make some inputs into the sixth development plan. The preparation of the plan was started in December last year, the writing of which is to be completed by the middle of next year. The current plan, the fifth one, ends in March next year. Each plan covers a 6-year period.

MADAGASCAR

Ratsiraka Comments on OAU, SDAR Recognition

AB051812 Dakar PANA in English 1804 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Antananarivo, 5 Nov (PANA) — The Malagasy head of state, Didier Ratsiraka, has said that the OAU summit conference scheduled this month in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) should be held with the participation of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) rightly "recognized by the majority of the member states of the Pan-African organization."

In an interview with the PAN-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY, the Malagasy leader affirmed that it is the responsibility of each state to appreciate the existence or not of another state. This is the sovereign right of each state, he said, adding that according to the OAU Charter the admission of a state is final when it is justified by the number of votes in favour.

According to President Ratsiraka, the SDAR should as a matter of principle participate in the 20th OAU summit. Eight years after the summit conference held in Mauritius had decided on the principle of the organization of a referendum in Western Sahara, Africa should choose between respecting this decision "in all legality" to "save the OAU" or renounce the principle of intangibility of borders inherited from the colonial period to "stifle and break up the organization."

The Malagasy president recalled in his interview with PANA that each African state, including the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, has "something to claim from his neighbour." Respecting the "territorial status quo" in Africa is indispensable for encouraging African states to group themselves together into continental or regional organisations in order to "safeguard peace."

Consequently, the recognition of the existence of the "Sahrawi" would enhance the reconciliation of the Maghreb, he said, adding that the existence of the SDAR provides a "healthy political climate in North Africa."

With peace restored, the states within this region can then focus their attention on finding solutions to economic problems, affirmed the Malagasy head of state, who regretted the fact that Morocco did not take advantage of the opportunity given her by the OAU to "pull out from Western Sahara holding her head high."

MAOZAMBIQUE

Maputo Reports on Supplies to 'Bandits'

MB051907 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] A (?foreign) military aircraft dropped military supplies to the MNR [Mozambique National Resistance] armed bandits in southern Mozambique in September this year. This was said by a captured bandit, Simeao Fernando, in an interview with reporters in the southern Mozambican Province of Inhambane.

Fernando said he personally watched three parachute drops between 2300 and 2400 at night. The supplies included mines, mortar shells, boxes of ammunition, green uniforms, boots, and a quantity of food for a bandit leader. The prisoner was unable to say where the supply aircraft had come from. Prior to the signing of the Nkomati Accord last March, there were frequent reports of supply drops for the bandits from South African aircraft. Under the terms of the Nkomati Accord, South Africa is committed to ending such support.

The Mozambican Army command in Inhambane Province, where the September supply drop is said to have taken place, has confirmed the prisoner's story. Major General Domingos Fondo, who heads the provincial command, says there was also a supply drop in June. However, there has been no accusation that the South Africans organized the two flights. Further north in Mozambique, in the Province of Zambezia, a search is underway for a Portuguese family who were kidnapped by the MNR bandits. A Portuguese businessman, Antonio Soares, his wife, and their three children were seized by the terrorists in mid-September. Mrs Soares was in the final month of pregnancy at the time. A Mozambican who was kidnapped at the same time but who later escaped says Mrs Soares gave birth to a baby in the bush. There has been no news of the Soares family since.

Labor Talks With RSA Delegation Begin in Maputo

MB051549 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 5 Nov 84

[From the "First Edition of Newsreel" program]

[Text] Talks between delegations from Mozambique and South Africa in the field of labor took place in Maputo this morning. At about 0820, a South African delegation led by Minister of Manpower Peter du Plessis arrived in Maputo,and a half hour later it took part in talks with a Mozambican delegation, led by Aguiar Mazula, the state secretary for labor.

In their speeches, the two delegation heads said the meeting came within the spirit of the Nkomati Accord, and described as positive the contacts held so far. In his speech, the secretary of state for labor said the following:

[Begin Mazula recording] It is with satisfaction that we welcome your working visit to Mozambique. We find it natural as it is within the spirit of peace and the establishment of relations of good neighborliness as provided for in the Nkomati Accord signed by the supreme leaders of our two states.

It is our duty, Your Excellency, to ensure the implementation of the accord in our fields of competency. Accordingly, I believe that we will devote all our zeal and ability to this purpose.

Mr Minister, the fact that we possess a common border has naturally forced the people of our two countries to establish and maintain historic ties which grant them the natural right of migration, which our governments cannot ignore. With the weak development of the Portuguese colonial economy, this right assumed astronomic dimenstions. From the beginning of the development of the South African economy, Mozambican workers have fulfilled South Africa's needs for manpower. History notes that Mozambican manpower was the first foreign manpower to be employed in the South African economy, even long before the recruitment of Indian manpower. This reality cannot be ignored. Mozambican workers have worked in the mining sector for almost 9 decades, and I am right to say that they were an important factor in the development of the South African economy. [end recording]

In turn, Minister Peter du Plessis underlined the need for cooperation between Mozambique and South Africa.

[Begin Du Plessis recording in English fading into Portuguese translation] We are economically interdependent, and it is to the benefit of both of us to promote cooperation. I think that this is an historical meeting. With it, we shall open new avenues and new relations to create a better future for the present generation, particularly for our children. I should also like to point out that this meeting takes place in the spirit of the Nkomati Accord. Accordingly, Your Excellency, the South African delegation includes the director general of my department, who visited Maputo in January this year during which a number of important issues were discussed. In May, there was another meeting in Cape Town during which we agreed to hold this meeting. I should like to take this opportunity to thank the chairman of the Chamber of Mines for efforts to promote this cooperation. [end recording]

According to the program of the visit, the South African delegation is expected to return home this afternoon.

Machel Receives Police Delegation, Message

MB051734 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1600 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] At Ponta Vermelha Palace in Maputo this afternoon, Field Marshal Samora Machel received a group of members of the Mozambique People's Police [PPM] led by Colonel Oscar Monteiro, a member of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau and minister of interior.

A message from the Ministry of Interior to President Samora Machel on the occasion of the Law and the PPM Day, marked today, was read by Col Oscar Monteiro. We came to reaffirm to the people in the person of their legitimate representative that we are a people's police, the message underlined. The message outlined a number of directives laid down by the president of republic for the PPM, and pointed out that substantial steps had been taken in training cadres and in the field of organization. The Ministry of Interior message to President Samora Machel also stated that the draft of the basic police regulation and the draft of the promotion regulation were now ready and would be submitted to authorities for approval.

Field Marshal Samora Machel hailed the development of our police and pointed out that we were now feeling throughout the country the presence of a people's police, which is what we want. He went on to add: "We need competent cadres who have the interest of the people continuously in their hearts, men who ensure respect for the constitution of the People's Republic of Mozambique."

The head of state referred to the need to establish a hierarchy within the PPM in order to ensure responsibility and announced that the graduation process for police would commence next year. On the occasion, President Samora Machel was presented with 1.5 million meticals to strengthen our country's defense against the armed bandits. Major General Marcelino dos Santos, a member of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau and leader of Sofala Province, and Raposo Pereira, our country's attorney general, were also present at the ceremony.

Finance Minister Closes Legal Meeting

MB051817 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] In Maputo today, Finance Minister Rui Baltazar appealed for greater cooperation and continued exchange of information among the five Portuguese-speaking African countries in the legal field.

Rui Baltazar was speaking at the closing ceremony of the second seminar of the Law, Justice, and Administration Subcommission of the five countries. He added that there was a need for an increasing exchange of information.

The second seminar of the Law, Justice, and Administration Subcommission involving Mozambique, Angola, Sao Tome and Principe, Guinea-Bissau, and Cape Verde began on Tuesday last week. The delegates concluded that economic crimes constituted one of the most serious crime problems in the five countries considering the amount of damage caused. It was also noted that the penal code inherited from colonialism does not conform with the present socioeconomic realities of the five countries.

During the seminar held in Maputo, a plan for the subcommission's activities for next year was approved.

Finnish Aid Official Arrives on Visit

MB051947 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1600 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] (David Johannson), the deputy general director of the Finnish Agency for International Development, arrived in our country this morning to assess the results of the containers terminal project at Nacala port.

He and his delegation were received at Maputo International Airport by Antonio Sumbane, the state secretary for international cooperation. What is more, a South African delegation of railroads also arrived in the capital today for talks with the representatives of the Mozambique railroads.

Likewise, South African Minister of Manpower Peter du Plessis arrived in Maputo this morning. He was received on arrival by Aguiar Mazula, the state secretary for labor.

SOUTH AFRICA

Death Toll Rises in Nationwide Violence

MB061033 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 6 Nov 84

[Text] The death toll related to a mass stay-away from work in black areas has risen sharply. Police say six people were killed in incidents around South Africa early today, the second day of a 2-day general strike in protest against government policies called for by various organizations and trade unions. Police say five of the people were killed on the East and West Rand and the sixth in the KwaZakhele township near Port Elizabeth. The latest deaths bring the toll of 16 since the clashes between police and residents in townships, mainly around Johannesburg, started yesterday. Police report widespread violence and cases of stone throwing and arson from many Transvaal townships.

250,000 Students Boycott

MB051600 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1458 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Johannesburg, Nov 5, SAPA — Well over 250,000 black schoolchildren in the Vaal Triangle, Pretoria and East Rand areas stayed away from classes today as many black workers thoughout the Transvaal gave massive support to a call for a two-day work stoppage made by various organisations and trade unions.

Tension in the region's townships — where police are maintaining a strong presence — has flared with the death of a black man when Development Board officials opened on a group trying to set fire to board houses in Katlehong, and the serious injury of a policeman struck by a petrol bomb in Tembisa.

Bus services into Tembisa, on the East Rand, and Atteridgeville near Pretoria, where the situation was described as "tense" by a PUTCO [Public Utility Transport Corporation] spokesman, were withdrawn to the areas' outskirts on police advice.

A bus driver was injured and a number of buses were damaged in stone-throwing incidents where the crowds in the two townships set up roadblocks from the early morning.

Police headquarters in Pretoria reported a string of violent incidents where people were dispersed with tear gas, although no action was taken at many others.

Police have confirmed a black constable died in a Nigel hospital last night from head injuries he received in a stoning incident in Duduza, near Springs, yesterday.

The call for a worker stayaway was made last week by the Transvaal Stayaway Committee which demanded that the government attend to grievances.

Massive support for the stayaway resulted in a 50 to 90 per cent absentee rate on the reef and in the Vaal Triangle today — marking the protest as the most widespread industrial action in over a decade.

Companies in the East Rand and Vaal Triangle were the worst hit by the action with reports ranging from a total worker no-show to a trickle of 10 or 20 per cent of the total workforce.

Major employers, who were informed of the planned action beforehand, have adopted a sympathetic approach, saying the workers will not be dismissed, but that pay will be docked.

A spokesman for the Department of Education and Training said in Pretoria there had been a total stayaway from primary and secondary schools in the Vaal Triangle, the East Rand and Pretoria's Atteridgeville/Saulsville townships.

This makes up a total of over 250,000 pupils registered.

In Soweto, the spokesman said, school attendance varied from "low" to "100 per cent."

Elsewhere in the country the situation was reported by regional inspectors to be "normal" although problems were still being experienced in the eastern cape towns of Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown, Queenstown, Cradock and Uitenhage, where, as in the Transvaal, black education has been disrupted by prolonged stayaways.

Attendance in these areas varied from 35 to 80 per cent. The spokesman pointed out that the matriculation examination subject written today, technical drawing, had been held without any disruption or intimidation of candidates by "outsiders."

Police guards at examination centres were still being requested as and when inspectors felt this necessary.

The stayaway call was reported to be effective in the Vaal Triangle and East Rand areas, particularly in the townships of Kwathema and Sebokeng, while large restless crowds milled around many parts of Soweto.

SAPA's correspondent in Sebokeng reports that police were seen providing transport for some workers who were not heeding the call. However, the added, the heavy police presence of earlier today had thinned out by late morning.

All shops and most schools in Soweto were closed, while only one garage in Dube operated.

Slogans painted on walls read: "We want our freedom," "Botha has to resign" and "Give freedom to the people."

Buthelezi Urges Restraint

MB060548 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 6 Nov 84

[Text] The chief minister of KwaZulu, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, has urged blacks throughout the country to act democratically and to refrain from committing subversive acts, which will only set back the clock of their struggle. Chief Buthelezi was reacting at Ulundi to calls on blacks to stay away from work, and to reports of unrest in black townships.

UDF Official 'Overwhelmed' by Boycott Success

MB051914 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1822 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Johannesburg, Nov 5, SAPA — The United Democratic Front was "overwhelmed by the success" of today's stayaway call, the Reverend Frank Chikane, Transvaal vice president of the UDF, said in a statement today.

"It is necessary for us to restate the demands that gave rise to this drastic action by our people," the statement said.

"The government must heed the voice of the people. The greatest damage that they could do would be to once again ignore these just demands and respond to the stayaway only with violence.

"Also, a fraudulent pamphlet distributed mysteriously over the weekend has not had any effect. People know this to be the work of the enemy. Like all previous attempts to discredit the UDF, it has failed," the statement said.

Sharpeville Electricity Cut Due to Arrears

AB040940 Paris AFP in English 0741 GMT 4 Nov 84

[Text] Johannesburg, Nov 4 (AFP) — The electricity supply in the black township of Sharpeville in the Vaal Triangle south of here, which has been hit by unrest in the past two months, has been cut off because thousands of people are in arrears with their payments, South African radio reported Saturday. The radio quoted a spokesman for the Lecoa town council, which administers the township, as saying tenants had not paid their bills since the end of August and the council could no longer bear the financial burden. The radio said the spokesman said the action was in no way connected to the non-payment of rents.

The electricity supply to another township, Bopalong, had already been cut off for the same reasons. Similar action might be applied next week to Sebokeng and Boipatong.

Since rioting erupted in the Vaal Triangle two months ago, at least 80 people are known to have died and hundreds have been injured. The rioting was originally sparked by rent increases and rises in water and electricty tariffs.

Law Minister Comments on ANC Setbacks, Violence

MB030830 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 3 Nov 84 p 8

["Exclusive" interview with Minister of Law and Order Louis le Grange by Political Editor Patrick Laurence]

[Text] The African National Congress is "on the downgrade," Mr Louis le Grange, Minister of Law and Order, declared in his 14th floor office in the heart of Pretoria.

"They've had a lot of problems. One of their problems is a question of morale. They've been hit for sixes all the time. They know it very well."

But, Mr Le Grange added, apart from the ANC's recent setbacks, and its adverse impact on its morale, South Africa's blacks were turning away from the ANC because of contemporary political, social and economic developments.

"The blacks appreciate what is happening. They see there is earnestness and seriousness in the Government's willingness to talk to them, to consider the future with them in the interests of all."

Mr Le Grange's statements ring strangely in the ears of South Africans who do not share his political perspective.

They are difficult to reconcile with continuing attacks by the ANC in the wake of the March 16 Nkomati Accord with Mozambique and, even more, with the on-going unrest which has turned many townships into battlegrounds between police and black youths.

Mr Le Grange, however, did not have the same problems. "We didn't expect a drop in ANC attacks after Nkomati," he told me in a wide-ranging interview.

"We expected an increase and there was a slight increase ... because the ANC wanted to emphasise its supposed strength to the world.

"We expected an increase and we were geared for it. But (the attacks) are levelling off now."

The township unrest was cited by Mr Le Grange as evidence of his view that blacks are appreciative of President P.W. Botha's "reformist" policies.

He had no doubt that the ANC had a hand in instigating the unrest, largely in a bid to thwart the implementation of the new Constitution and sabotage the process of political reform which was threatening to make it redundant.

"The more we succeed in talking about these matters (of reform), the more the ANC will become obsolete on the South African scene." he said.

"Its main purpose in the last three months in South Africa was to try and create a picture of discontented people ... to give the impression to the rest of the world that the constitutional developments are (totally) unacceptable to the people of South Africa.

That is certainly one of the main reasons behind the present unrest in South Africa."

Mr Le Grange was sanguine about the unrest itself, which, according to figures culled from newspaper reports by the Institute of Race Relations, has claimed the lives of at least 134 people since the death of a school girl in Atteridgeville in February.

"I am confident that it is calming down progressively," Mr Le Grange said.

"One really can't say, but with the (completion of) school examinations and the closing of the schools it may calm down completely."

Mr Le Grange, a member of the Cabinet committee investigating ways of politically accommodating blacks living outside their designated "homelands," recognised the need for a political solution in any long-term answer to the unrest.

"We are talking to leaders of these black communities, to leaders from the national states ... to their own traditional leaders ... and to leaders from the independent states.

"We are not negotiating, but we are talking to them. We are asking their views. We will eventually consider all the views that we listened to.

"We will eventually consider all the information we have at our disposal to try and come to our final recommendations to the Government for its final decision."

Some observers believe that the Government has complicated its own task by detaining leaders of the United Democratic Front (UDF) and, to a lesser extent, the National Forum.

They contend that these leaders should be included in any discussions, as they have a genuine following and an equivalent legitimacy.

Mr Le Grange did not agree.

"I don't think they are so important that there is nobody else left to talk with to find solutions to the future. They are not important. Definitely not.

"I don't say that they are not regarded by some of their people as leaders. I am not saying that. All I am saying is that considerations for the future have definitely not come to a standstill because they have been detained."

Mr Le Grange has accused the UDF with creating a "revolutionary climate" and promoting the same aims as the ANC.

Asked why the UDF had not been charged in court with fomenting revolution and promoting the aims of a banned organisation, he replied:

"These matters are involved. It takes time to investigate. It may take a few years... We are monitoring the UDF and some of its affiliates on a very close basis."

He did not exclude the possibility of charges being brought against the UDF in court eventually, and justified the detention of several of its leaders as the course of action demanded by "the information available to us."

On possible action against the UDF in the future, Mr Le Grange said:

"It all depends on the circumstances ... We will have to see what the UDF does, how they go about (their business) and what they intend doing."

Judging from unrest casualty figures given by Mr Le Grange in a speech to the Transvaal National Party congress on October 5, police action has caused more than three-quarters of the deaths.

Of the 80 people killed between August 1 and September 20, 65 were killed by police, Mr Le Grange disclosed in his speech.

Some observers have interpreted these figures as evidence of the inability of the police to control riot situations except by the crudest methods.

Mr Le Grange, however, was adamant in his defence of police methods and their concern to keep casualties to a minimum.

"Our view is that we must operate with the absolute minimum loss of life... I can't emphasise that enough.

"That is the approach of the SAP. We must operate with the absolute minimum loss of life, but without losing effectiveness, of course, and without endangering the lives of the police force...

"We have adopted new methods by using rubber bullets, by using those little sjamboks insteady of the heavy riot truncheons that were used on kids and youngsters (in the past).

"We have our sneeze machines. We have tear-gas.

"All these kinds of methods are used to try to ensure that there will be a minimum loss of life.

"We don't use live ammunition unless we are in danger and unless the situation is very, very serious.

"And then it is only in the final instance that a senior officer will give an instruction for live ammunition to be used.

"I don't mind if it takes a little longer to get the situation under control if we can save lives by doing it that way."

Labor Talks Spur Legalization of Mozambicans

MB060607 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 6 Nov 84

[Text] South Africa and Mozambique have embarked on a new labor dispensation that will lead to the legalization of thousands of Mozambican workers in South Africa and will provide substantial foreign revenue for the Mozambican Government. This was announced by the minister of manpower, Mr Piet du Plessis, at Jan Smuts Airport on his return from a visit to Mozambique as leader of a delegation which included members of the Chamber of Mines and of the South African agricultural union.

A joint statement issued by the Mozambican delegation, led by the secretary of state for labor, Mr Aguiar Mazula, and the South African delegation says that the labor recruitment office at Komatipoort will be reopened as a matter of priority. The Chamber of Mines is to spend 750,000 rand in streamlining the administration and control of Mozambican workers in mining and agriculture in South Africa. Mr du Plessis said about 150,000 Mozambican laborers were employed illegally in agriculture in South Africa, mainly in the eastern Transvaal. The talks in Maputo will be followed by talks in South Africa next month.

Conservative Leader Decries New Dispensation

MB060833 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2034 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] Morreesburg, Nov 5, SAPA — The new dispensation would only work over the dead bodies of the whites, Dr Andries Treurnicht, the leader of the Conservative Party, said at a by-election meeting in Morreesburg tonight. Dr Treurnicht said the new dispensation had no chance while the whites stood firmly and had a vigorous fighting spirit.

"If you do not want to join us, then don't hinder us because if you hinder us, you are joiners and surrenderers."

He was asked by the author of a (prospective) biography on Mr P.W. Botha, whether it was not now time to give the new dispensation a chance. "My reply to him was that it meant the destruction of the sovereign rights of whites and we refuse to have a part in the destruction of the white nation.

"I refuse to lie down because I see how the Afrikaaner nation and English South Africans are standing up in a moral revolution against a dispensation which threw away their sovereignty."

There were many whites who were unaware of this, but who were going to experience it to an escalating degree in the future, he said. "This dispensation will only work over the dead bodies of whites," Dr Treurnicht said.

Police Say Botswana Not Sanctioning ANC Acts

MB050904 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 5 Nov 84 p 3

[By Patrick Laurence, political editor]

[Excerpt] The South African Police have acknowledged that African National Congress fighters who use Botswana as an infiltration route to South Africa do so without the sanction of the Botswana Government.

The acknowledgement is contained in telexed replies from the SAP Public Relations Division to a series of questions submitted to the Commissioner of Police, General P.J. Coetzee, by the *RAND DAILY MAIL*.

One of the questions noted that two Cabinet ministers - the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Pik Botha, and the Minister of Defence General Magnus Malan - have identified Botswana in recent weeks as a new ANC infiltration route since the signing of the Nkomati Accord with Mozambique on March 16.

General Coetzee was asked how seriously he rated the threat from the Botswana route and whether the Botswana police cooperated with the SAP in checking it.

The SAP reply read:

"Since the signing of the Nkomati Accord the ANC have been forced to reappraise their infiltration route to South Africa and the "Botswana route" is the logical alternative.

"The ANC have in the past used the Botswana route and evidence has been gained that this route is now being used again.

"It must be stressed that the ANC uses this route without the sanction of the Botswana Government and that the Botswana police have in the past arrested ANC members who had fled to Botswana after committing acts of terror in the RSA."

ZAMBIA

Central Committee Member Fired in Drug Scandal

MB051248 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 5 Nov 84

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, has axed member of the Central Committee Wilson Chakulya, whose wife was arrested and subsequently imprisoned in Britain for drug trafficking.

Announcing the dismissal at a State House news conference today, Dr Kaunda said he was forced to take the extreme action after Mr Chakulya had failed to properly account for his wife's disgraceful transactions.

The Central Committee has ratified the president's decision and agreed that Mr Chakulya ceased to be a member of Zambia's highest policy making body on 1 November.

Dr Kaunda deplored Mr Chakulya and his wife's involvement in what he called this shoddy affair. The president found it repugnant that such a high-ranking party official could indulge in the sale of narcotics to (?intoxicate) [words indistinct].

In accordance with the party constitution, Mr Chakulya has the right to appeal against the president's action to the appropriate forums of the party.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Comments on Spies in Kenyan Stopover

MB060938 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 6 Nov 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, returned home from India yesterday where he joined more than 90 other world leaders at the funeral of Mrs Indira Gandhi. Comrade Mugabe was met at Harare Airport by the deputy prime minister, Comrade Simon Muzenda, Cabinet ministers, senior government officials, and members of the diplomatic corps.

The prime minister made a brief stopover in Nairobi, Kenya, where he addressed a news conference. He told newsmen that the Pretoria regime has been pleading for the release of two former Central Intelligence Organization officers detained in Zimbabwe. Comrade Mugabe said the two, Philip Hartlebury and Colin Evans, are not South African citizens and have not lived there. He said there are a lot of spies in the country and some of them have been arrested. Comrade Mugabe added, recently we discovered a spy ring in which blacks were involved.

Speaking on another issue, the prime minister said Zimbabwe has already taken the first steps torward a 1-party state. He said this policy was formally adopted by ZANU-PF at its congress last August and what was left now is to hold a referendum or an election. Comrade Mugabe said the ZAPU leader, Dr Nkomo, is a stumbling bloc to a 1-party state. He said ZAPU agreed to the idea of a 1-party state, but the differences lie in how to bring this about.

Masvingo Governor Urges Security Cooperation

MB031020 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 3 Nov 84

[Text] The governor of Masvingo Province, Comrade Dzikamayi Mavhaire, has called on people in Chiredzi district to cooperate with the security forces in order to stop dissidents infiltrating the area. Comrade Mavhaire told a rally at St Joseph's School that as the elections draw near some misguided elements are working out desparate plans to disrupt the elections. Commenting on (?poaching), which is widespread in the Chiredzi District, the governor said the courts should not hesitate to pass severe sentences on offenders.